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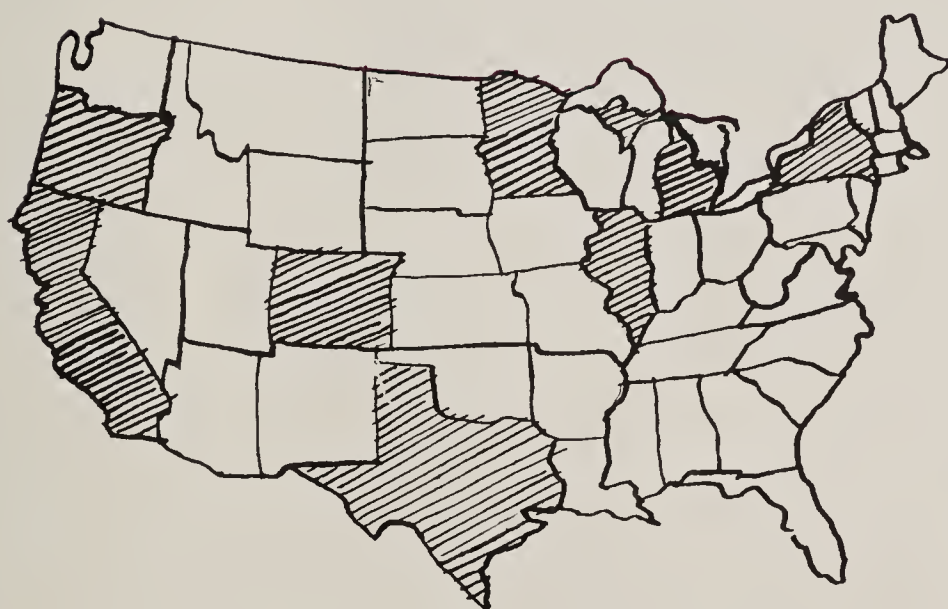




the JOHN I. JOHNSON family

+  
the OLA I. LEVIN family

and  
Related Families



Compiled and edited by  
Hilma Pearson, Svea, Minnesota

1960

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Has such a thing happened in your days,  
or in the days of your fathers?  
Tell your children of it, and let your  
children tell their children,  
And their children another generation.

—Joel 1:2-3

*Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to be free,  
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost, to me.  
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.*

*Emma Lazarus -- American poet 1849-1887*



Not all who came found improved living conditions immediately, but they found room and a bright future. They found hope under a private enterprise system. They looked into the future and saw a good life for themselves and for us, their posterity.



# PIONEER WOMEN

*By Mary Elizabeth Counselman*

Gran rode beside her man and hummed a song,  
Timing it to the clop of horses' feet,  
The creak of wagon wheels the whole day long,  
Tensed for the Indians they were apt to meet,  
Bone-tired of traveling, sick with fear of pain  
Of childbirth in a moving wagon train. . . .

Mother sat primly by her wedded spouse,  
Dusting the cinders from her gloves, once white,  
Smiling and chattering of the little house  
They'd own someday when he was started right  
In this new town, and thinking: *I could sew  
Nights, maybe. People wouldn't have to know. . . .*

Granddaughter leaned against her tired young vet,  
Making scat-rhythms of the rumbling bus,  
Listing the jobs that, maybe, she could get  
While he went back to law school—mutinous  
At living in a trailer on the day  
There would be three of them to make their way. . . .

And each one thought, in fierce parenthesis:  
*My daughter will not go through all of this!*

## PREFACE

"Absentes adsunt," Latin words meaning "the absent are present" appear in a floor slab of an old English church. They were placed there as a reminder that no matter what our accomplishments are today, much that we have and enjoy comes from those who have lived before us.

"He who is not proud of his ancestry will never leave anything for which his posterity may be proud of him," said the wise English statesman, Edmund Burke. "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you," is the first commandment with promise. (Eph. 6:2) Friends may come and go, but "blood is thicker than water."

It has been our aim, not only to gain an insight into our past, but to become better acquainted with each other in the present. Gathering material for this book has led the editor to satisfaction in contacts with previously unknown second cousins, whose parents we had known and loved through old letters, and in deeper appreciation of a great common heritage which is ours. We hope that these pages may do the same for our kinfolk who read them.

The material gathered and included in this volume is not intended for the general public. Should any private copies come into the possession of persons outside the relationship, it is requested that they be returned to someone in the family. Copies will be placed in one or two genealogical libraries in the hope that contacts may be made with kinfolk whom we have been unable to trace to date. If the editor's Svea address becomes obsolete in the future, it should be possible to reach us or other members of the family at Walnut Grove, Minnesota, by checking Lutheran clergy address lists for A. B. Pearson or A. B. Walfrid, or through the publisher of this book.

Because of the limited circulation of any family book, such could not be produced without donated labor and financial assistance in addition to the per copy price. It is hoped that those who have subsidized the project by "buying shares of stock" in our "family publishing company" will recover a part of their outlay as additional books are sold in the future. For that outlay which will not be recovered we can only say a sincere thank you.

Our very special thanks go to L. G. Palmgren, president of THE HART PRESS, INC., without whom a printed book would have been absolutely impossible. Many will know Mr. Palmgren as a cousin of the John Nelsons.

Thanks to Ardys Dale Shourds for hours of work on most of the division page sketches and some used elsewhere; to Marjorie Haley Eliason for the "Related Families" division page and some other sketches; to John Haley's cousin, Ambrose Powers, for the Axel Nordstrom division page; to Marlene Nelson for the Nils and Anna Nordstrom division page and the sketch of her great grandmother, Hannah Lindgren Erickson; to others for single sketches; to Wayne Nelson for division page lettering—handset type printed on the press which was his father, Franz's, hobby.

Thanks to Edna Andersen Haley and to Morris Johnson who received book orders and served as financial secretaries for the Nordstrom and Johnson families respectively. To all concerned, thanks for your cooperation and encouraging letters.

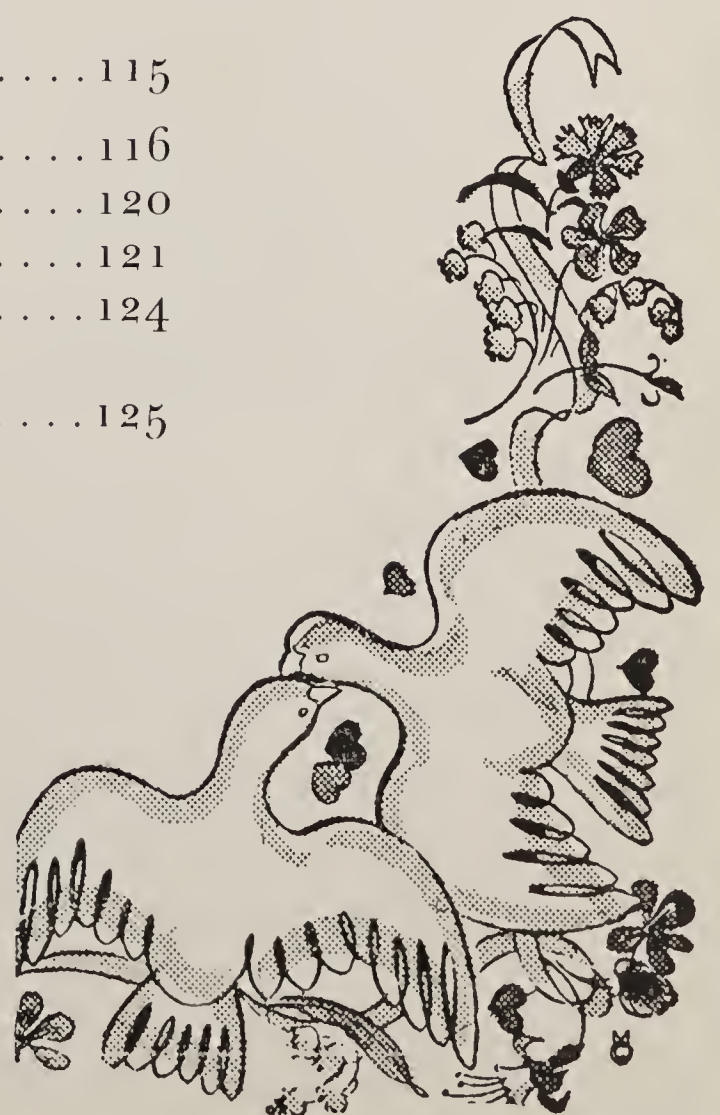
Special thanks to my considerate and helpful husband, Art, and to my sister, Esther Johnson Bengtson, for her invaluable assistance in research, in Swedish correspondence, map making, writing some of the "grandpa and grandma" material, and for sympathetic interest in a project which grew to greater proportions than ever intended.

With love,  
Hilma Pearson



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## Ancestry



*" . . . from generation to generation." Is. 34:17*



Kommentarer till släktskall för Jöns Ingemansson.

- I:1. Jöns Ingemansson döptes 1846 27/4. Hans syskon voro  
Nils född 1837 7/8, döpt 13/8 i Österslöv  
Anna född 1840 24/2, döpt 1/3 i Österslöv  
Elna född 1843 10/1, döpt 15/1 i Österslöv  
Ola född 1849 11/10, döpt 18/10 i Österslöv.  
Enligt Österslövs utflyttningslängd utflyttade Ola och Jöns  
år 1869 till Tyskland.
- II:1. Ingeman Olsson, bosatt på nr 33 Österslöv och till yrket tor-  
pare. 1836 17/12 ingick Ingeman Olsson från nr 33 Österslöv  
äktenskap med pigan Karna Olsdotter på nr 12 Kjelkestad.
- II:2. Karin Olsdotter döptes 1805 10/11 samt föddes på nr 38 Opmanna  
Enligt 1836 års husförhörslängd för Österslöv står Karin Ols-  
dotter antecknad som inflyttad till Österslöv 1808.
- III:1. Ola Olsson var bosatt på nr 33 Österslöv. Övriga barn förutom  
Ingeman voro  
Hans född 1798 4/9 i Österslöv  
Berta född 1802 2/5 i Österslöv  
Karna född 1804 29/11 i Österslöv  
Carl född 1808 23/8 i Österslöv  
Lars född 1813 15/8 i Österslöv  
1797 29/10 lyste det första gången för husman Ola Olsson och  
pigan Karna Trulsdotter. Ola Olsson avled i Österslöv 1838  
26/3 och begrovs 30/3, dödsorsak onämnd.
- III:3. Ola Ingemansson föddes i Arklistorp i Opmanna  
och döptes 1766 2/3. Han var bosatt på Måse-huset i Östers-  
lövs församling och var till yrket stalldräng. Han avled i  
Österslöv 1832 15/11, dödsorsak onämnd.
- IV:1. Ola Rasmusson döptes 1738 25/3 i Gryt. Inflyttade till Ös-  
terslöv 1762 från Nosaby. Husman Ola Rasmusson med familj  
kom 1768 till nr 33 i Österslöv. Han står antecknad som in-  
hyses i 1794-1799 års husförhörslängd, men är struken i 1800-  
1810 års husförhörslängd för Österslöv.

- IV:2. Berta Sörensdotter var född i Tollarp i Opmanna. Hon avled i  
Österslöv 1797 14/8 och begrovs 17/8. Dödsorsak "rosen".
- IV:3. Truls Larsson döptes i Kjelkestad, Österslöv 1733 6/5. 1768  
inflyttade han till nr 2 Kjelkestad. 1769 12/2 lyste det  
första gången för drängen och nya hemmansåbon Truls Larsson  
på nr 2 Kjelkestad med pigan och dottern Else Carlsdotter på  
nr 3 i Österslöv. Övriga barn förutom Karna var  
Nilla född 1770 8/10, död 1838 23/4.  
Truls Larsson avled i Österslöv 1775 31/8, begrovs 3/9. Döds-  
orsak "rödsoten".
- IV:4. Else Carlsdotter född 1743 19/6 enligt husförhörslängden 1800-  
1810 för Österslöv. Lysning till äktenskap avkunnades första  
gången 1776 10/11 för Anders Svensson och Else Carlsdotter i  
hennes andra gifte. Else Carlsdotter avled i Österslöv 1805  
22/2, begrovs 3/3. Dödsorsak "bröstfeber med håll och sting".
- IV:5. Ingemar Ingemansson var till yrket dräng.
- V:1. Rasmus Rasmusson var till yrket saltpetersjudare. Han var bo-  
satt i Getebo i Gryt.
- V:3. Sören Carlsson var till yrket saltpetersjudare.
- V:7. Carl Nilsson var enligt den äldsta bevarade husförhörslängden  
för Österslöv född omkring 1708 och var bosatt på nr 3 i  
Österslöv. Enligt Österslöv dopbok döptes 1708 16/1 gosseber-  
net Carl, son till Nils Persson "här av byn". Övriga barn för-  
utom Else voro  
Anna, enligt Österslövs husförhörslängder född omkring 1736  
Ingeman, enligt Österslövs husförhörslängder född omkring 1746  
Karna, enligt Österslövs husförhörslängder född omkring 1750  
Berta, enligt Österslövs husförhörslängder född omkring 1755  
Carl Nilsson avled 1782 13/10 i Österslöv och begrovs 20/10.  
Dödsorsak bröstsjuka, obstruktion och ålderdomssvaghet. Han  
omnämnes i dödsnotisen som den äldste i socknen.
- V:8. Karna Mickelsdotter avled 1778 12/4 i Österslöv och begrovs  
17/4. Dödsorsak "så kallad pleuresie med bröstfeber med håll  
och sting".

I

II

III

IV

V

1.  
Rasmus Rasmusson.

1.  
Ola Rasmusson född 1738  
23/3 i Gryt.

2.  
Gunnel Olofsdotter.

1.  
Ola Olsson, född 1774 28/6  
i Österslöv.

2.  
Berta Sörensdotter född.  
1739 8/11 i Opmanna.

3.  
Sören Carlsson.

1.  
Ingeman Olsson, född  
1811 4/3 i Österslöv.

3.  
Truls Larsson, född 1733  
2/5 i Österslöv.

4.  
Anna Larsdotter.

2.  
Karna Trulsdotter, född 1773  
15/6 i Österslöv.

5.  
Lasse Trulsson.

7.  
Carl Nilsson.

4.  
Else Carlsdotter döpt 1743  
26/6 i Österslöv.

8.  
Karna Mickelsdotter.

1.  
Jöns Ingemansson  
född 1846 25/4 i  
Österslöv.

5.  
Ingemar Ingemansson.

2.  
Karin Olsdotter, född  
1805 6/11 i Opmanna.

3.  
Ola Ingemansson, född 1766  
2/2 i Opmanna.

6.  
Svenborg Jeppasdotter.

4.  
Anna Jönsdotter född 1767  
18/10 i Örkened.

7.  
Jon Jachimasson.

8.  
Lena Ivarsdotter.



Information received from the archives in Lund, Sweden, about Jöns Ingemansson (John I. Johnson) and reproduced on preceding page applies equally to Ola Levin, Jöns' brother.

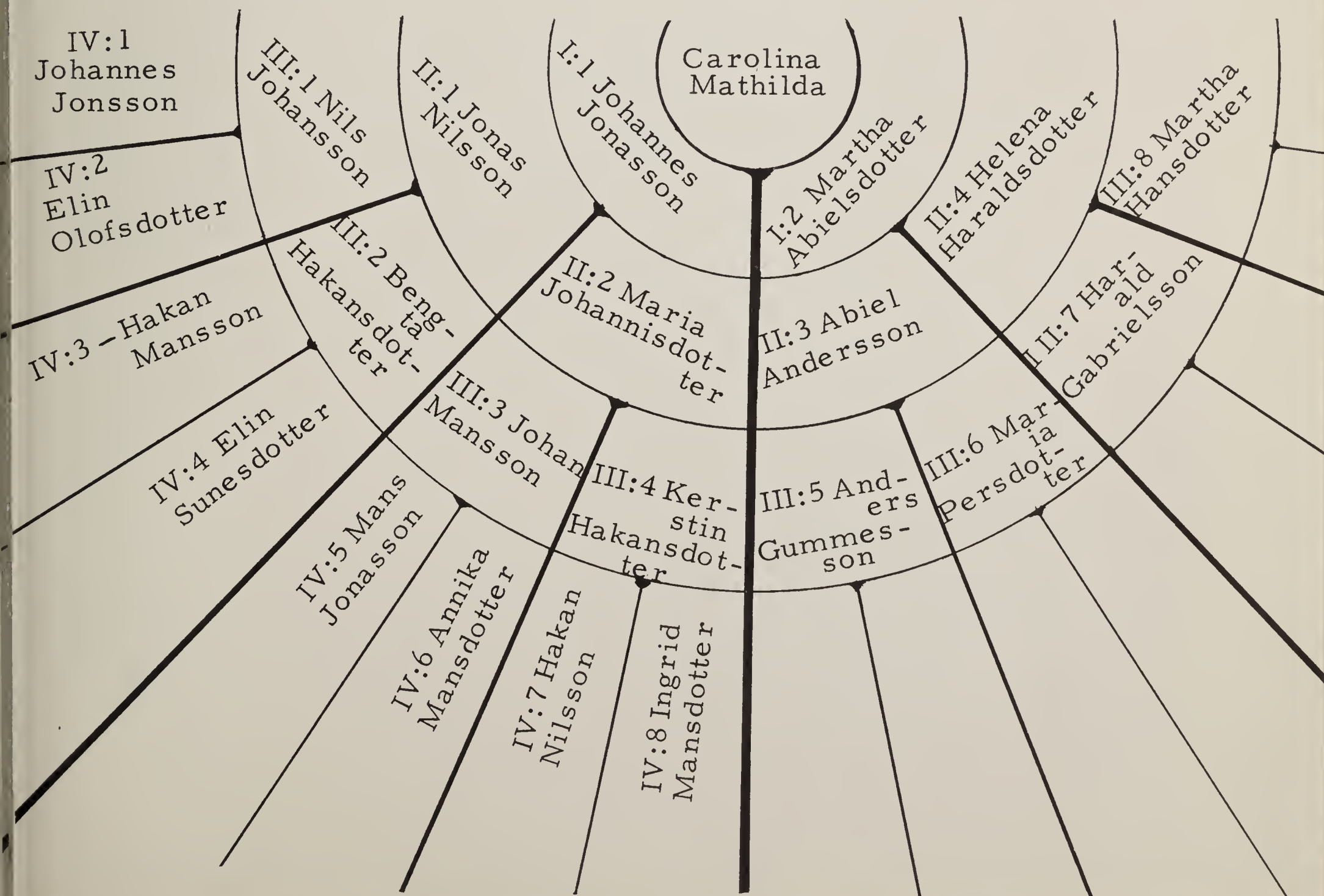
Notice that each Roman numeral above a column (bottom part of page) designates a generation. Match Roman numeral and Arabic numeral by each name with the same combination found in explanation (top part of page) for details.

Född or föddes means born; döpt means baptized. The year is given first followed by the day and then the month.

The genealogy chart below looks back three and four generations from Carolina Mathilda Johannesdotter (Mrs. John I. Johnson). Obviously, Sigrid and Harry can substitute their grandmother Lisa's name for "Mathilda Carolina" because the two women were sisters.

Numbers preceding names in the chart can be matched with those in letter from the Vadstena archives for more information about any person or generation.

See the "Related Families" division for further suggestion about securing information. Sweden maintains several archives where any of us can hire research workers to secure information for us, or we can go there ourselves to do research work. The archives which are of special interest to our family are those at Lund, Skåne, and Vadstena, in which records from Småland are kept. Church records prior to 1860, and other records, are to be found there.





Mrs A.B. Pearson,  
S v e a, Minnesota, U.S.A.

Till svar på Edert brev den 14 sistlidne augusti får jag efter företagen utredning meddela följande.

Carolina Mathilda, född 22/11 1846 i Väckelsång, var dotter till hemmansägaren Johannes Jonasson (I:1) och hans hustru Martha Abielsdotter (I:2) i Väckelsånga Skullagård.

I:1. Johannes Jonasson var född 8/12 1807 i Väckelsång såsom son till Jonas Nilsson (II:1) och hans hustru Maria Johannisdotter (II:2) i Boaryds Södra Udd. Såsom dräng från Boaryds Södra Udd gifte sig Johannes Jonasson 31/1 1825 i Väckelsång med pigan Martha Abielsdotter från Väckelsånga Skullagård. Makarna bodde som ägare och brukare av 1/8 mantal Boaryds Södra Udd 1826-1828 samt från sistnämnda år till 1847 som ägare och brukare av 1/8 mantal Väckelsånga Skullagård (den gård som tidigare brukats av Martha Abielsdotters fader). Från 1847 och ännu 1861, då den yngsta härstädes förvarade husförhörslängden för Väckelsång slutar, bodde Johannes Jonasson och Martha Abielsdotter på undantag hos mågen Daniel Abrahamsson och dottern Anna Gustafva i Väckelsånga Skullagård.

I:2. Martha Abielsdotter var född 11/3 1803 i Väckelsång såsom dotter till Abiel Andersson (II:3) och hans hustru Helena Haraldsdotter (II:4) i Väckelsånga Skullagård.

Johannes Jonasson och Martha Abielsdotter hade så vitt av husförhörslängderna framgår följande barn, alla födda i Väckelsång (a-h):

a) Anna Gustafva Johannisdotter, född 16/2 1826, gifte sig 1847 med Daniel Abrahamsson, född 11/4 1819, som samma år övertog svärfaderns gård, Väckelsånga Skullagård i Väckelsång, där familjen bodde ännu 1861. Makarna hade då fem minderåriga barn.

b) Johan Gustaf, född 17/10 1828, död 27/4 1836,

c) Jonas Daniel Johannisson, född 20/11 1830, var år 1861 skriven ögift under nyodlingen Hagaberg under Väckelsånga Skullagård i Väckelsång.

d) Nils Johan Johannisson, född 9/10 (senare i husförhörslängderna förvanskad till 19/10) 1834, har kunnat följas i härvarande material till 20/10 1856, då han ögift utflyttade från Tingsås till Nättraby. För vidare upplysningar om honom får jag i första hand hänvisa till landsarkivet i Lund.

e) Lisa Helena Johannisdotter, född 12/1 1838, var 1861 skriven som ögift piga under Lidhem i Väckelsång.

f) Johan August Johannisson, född 3/9 1840, var 1861 skriven som ögift dräng hos svågern Daniel Abrahamsson i Väckelsånga Skullagård i Väckelsång.

g) Frans David Johannisson, född 25/6 1843, var 1861 skriven som ögift dräng i Väckelsånga Skullagård (hos bonden Carl Gustaf Magnusson) i Väckelsång.

h) Carolina Mathilda, se ovan, var 1861 skriven hos föräldrarna.

II:1. Jonas Nilsson var född 12/8 1768 i Södra Sandsjö såsom son till Nils Johansson (III:1) och hans hustru Bengta Håkansdotter (III:2) i Idemåla. Hans födelseår har i husförhörslängderna för Väckelsång förvanskats till 1780 (!), men hans identitet har med säkerhet kunnat bevisas genom bouppteckning efter en syster, där han finnes omnämnd.

Jonas Nilsson var hemmahörande i Knällsberg i Tingsås då han 27/8 1806 i Väckelsång gifte sig med pigan Maria Johansdotter från Boaryds Södra Udd. Makarna bosatte sig som hemmansägare i sistnämnda gård i Väckelsång och bodde här till dess de avled. Efter första hustruns död (se nedan) gifte Jonas Nilsson om sig 1/5 1819 i Väckelsång med änkan Martha Didriksdotter, född 1773, som överlevde honom.



Jonas Nilsson i Boaryds Södra Udd avled av bröstfeber 12/6 1820 i Väckelsång.

II:2. Maria Johannisdotter var född 3/1 1789 i Väckelsång såsom dotter till Johannes Månsson (JII:3) och hans hustru Kerstin Håkansdotter (III:4) i Boaryds Södra Udd.

Maria Johannisdotter avled 5/5 1815 i Väckelsång av slag. Jonas Nilsson och Maria Johannisdotter hade endast sonen Johannes Jonasson (I;1).

II:3. Abiel Andersson var född 21/6 1775 i Väckelsång såsom son till Anders Gummesson (III:5) och hans hustru Maria Persdotter (III:6) i Fiskestads Krokagård.

Abiel Andersson var dräng och hemmahörande i Esbjörnåla i Urshult då han 4/5 1800 i Väckelsång gifte sig med pigan Helena Haraldsdotter i Väckelsånga Skullagård.

Abiel Andersson var hemmansägare i Väckelsånga Skullagård, 1/8 mantal, 1800-1828, därefter skriven på undantag på samma gård till sin död. Hans säges i de senare husförhörslängderna vara värkbruten och vanför.

Undantags- och änkemannen Abiel Andersson i Väckelsånga Skullagård avled av ålderdomskrämpor 15/9 1846 i Väckelsång.

II:4. Helena Haraldsdotter var född 23/10 1778 i Väckelsång såsom dotter till Harald Gabrielsson (III:7) och hans hustru Martha Hansdotter (III:8) i Väckelsånga Skullagård.

Hustrun Lena (Helena) Haraldsdotter i Väckelsånga Skullagård avled av lungrot 25/1 1830 i Väckelsång.

Lakarna hade så vitt av husförhörslängderna framgå endast barnen: Maja Lisa, född 30/4 1801, Märtha, född 11/3 1803, och Johannes, född 2/7 1806, alla födda i Väckelsång.

III:1. Nils Johansson var född 3/10 1743 i Södra Sandsjö såsom son till Johannes Jönsson (IV:1) och hans hustru Elin Olofsdotter (IV:2) i Hemmingsmåla.

Såsom dräng från Hemmingsmåla gifte sig Nils Johansson 30/11 1765 i Södra Sandsjö med pigan Bengta Håkansdotter från Idemåla. Makarna bodde i Idemåla Södergård i S. Sandsjö från giftermålet till 1791. Bengta Håkansdotter var då död och Nils Johansson gifte detta år, 19/2, om sig i Södra Sandsjö med änkan Stina Håkansdotter från Holmahult Norrgård, född

1743, död 1817. Nils Johansson blev nu bonde i Holmahults Norrgård till omkring 1800, därefter bosatt på undantag på denna gård till sin död.

Änkemannen Nils Johansson i Holmahult Norrgård avled av ålderdom den 4 och begravdes den 11 november 1821 i Södra Sandsjö.

III:2. Bengta Håkansdotter var född 12/2 1742 i Södra Sandsjö såsom dotter till Håkan Månsson (IV:3) och hans hustru <sup>Elin Sunesdotter/</sup> (IV:4) i Idemåla.

Gifta hustrun Bengta Håkansdotter i Idemåla avled 28/1 1790 i Södra Sandsjö.

III:3. Johannes Månsson var född 18/11 1753 i Väckelsång såsom son till Måns Jonasson (IV:5) och hans hustru Annika Månsdotter (IV:6) i Väckelsånga Makagård.

Johannes Månsson var dräng från Väckelsånga Makagård då han 7/4 1780 i Väckelsång gifte sig med pigan Kerstin Håkansdotter i Boaryds Södra Udd.

Johannes Månsson var ägare och brukare av en hemmansdel i Boaryds Södra Udd i Väckelsång från giftermålet till dess han 24/4 1811 avled av "feber".

III:4. Kerstin Håkansdotter var född 10/8 1759 i Tingsås såsom dotter till Håkan Nilsson (IV:7) och hans hustru Ingrid Månsdotter (IV:8) i Flögshult (senare bosatta i Boaryds Södra Udd).

Hon gifte om sig i slutet av 1820-talet med Paul Hindriks-son, född 1791, som överlevde henne.

Undantagshustrun Kerstin Håkansdotter i Boaryds Södra Udd avled av ålderdom 25/5 1835 i Väckelsång.

Eftersom de av Eder insända medlen förbrukats har forskningen här avbrutits. Utgångspunkter för vidare forskningar bakåt i tiden finnes i här förvarat material. Kyrkoböckerna för församlingarna efter 1860-61 finnas hos resp. pastorsämbete.

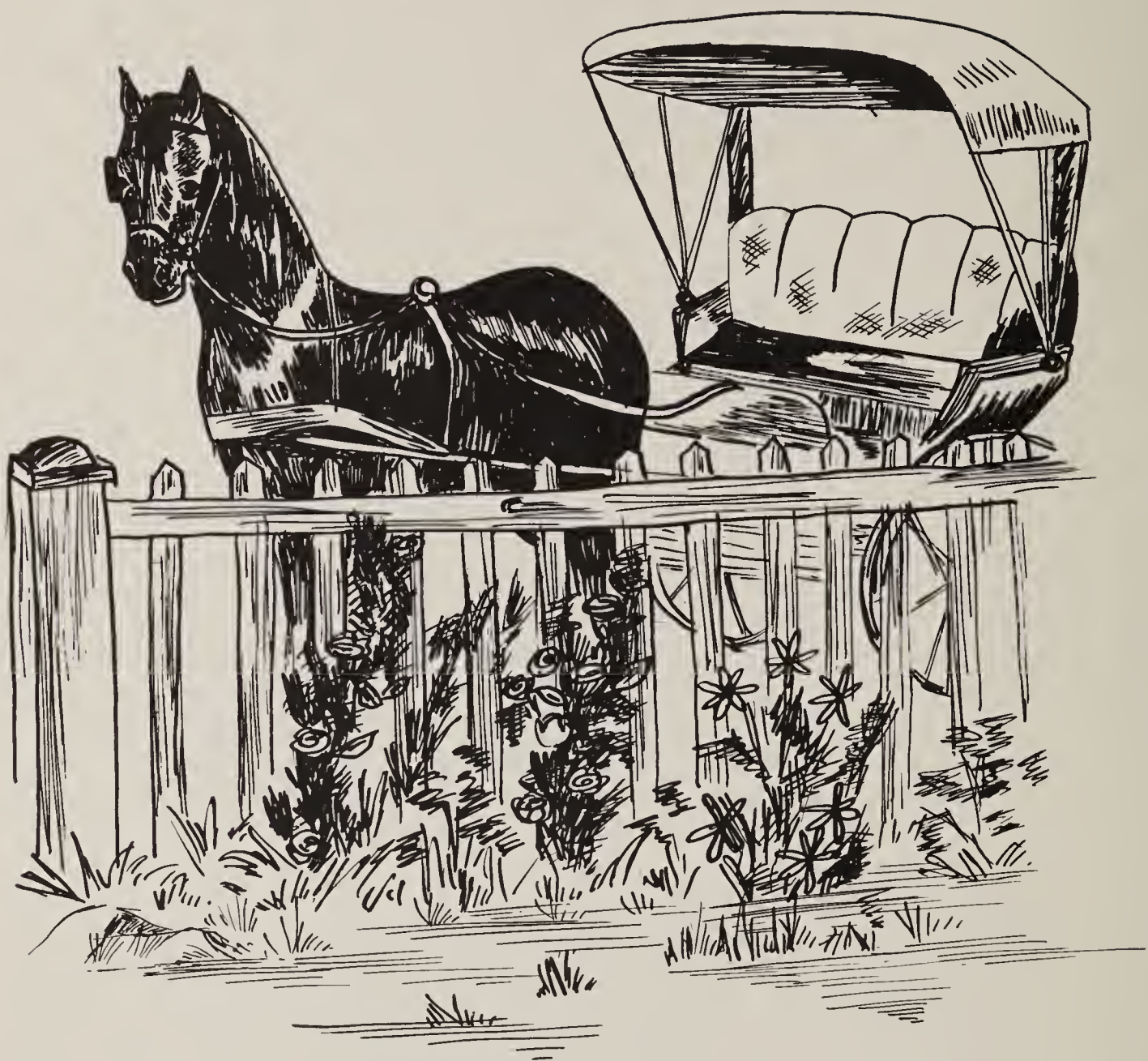
Vadstena i landsarkivet den 9 november 1959.

Enligt uppdrag

(Gunnar Thornström)

Arkivassistent.





*John I. and Karolina Johnson*





*Jöns Ingemansson*

Reproduced from charcoal artwork.



Photo made on arrival in U. S. A.

Jöns Ingemansson, born April 25, 1846 at Österslöv, Skåne, Sweden, and Carolina Johannesdotter, born November 22, 1846 at Väckelsång, Småland, Sweden, met in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, where they and many other Swedish youths had gone on a work contract. When they returned to Sweden they were married and lived at Väckelsång, where Jöns found employment.

Jöns' last position in Småland was that of *förvaltare* at a large farm. He was responsible for several other men, going before them in work and directing by example. Termination of this job was described later by Jöns' wife, "*Far blev ovän me den som var över honom.*" There may have been a personality clash between him and his superintendent.

In 1879 Jöns, Carolina and family moved to Österslöv, Skåne, where they bought two *tunn* land (nearly three acres) at number 15, and built their own home. See August story for details.

Carolina was an aggressive woman and very soon after her arrival she gave a neighborhood carpenter who had lived in America some valuables, including the brooch watch received from her parents, in exchange for services and some used lumber. Jöns also continued to build as much as his time permitted while working at other jobs wherever he could find opportunities for a little income.

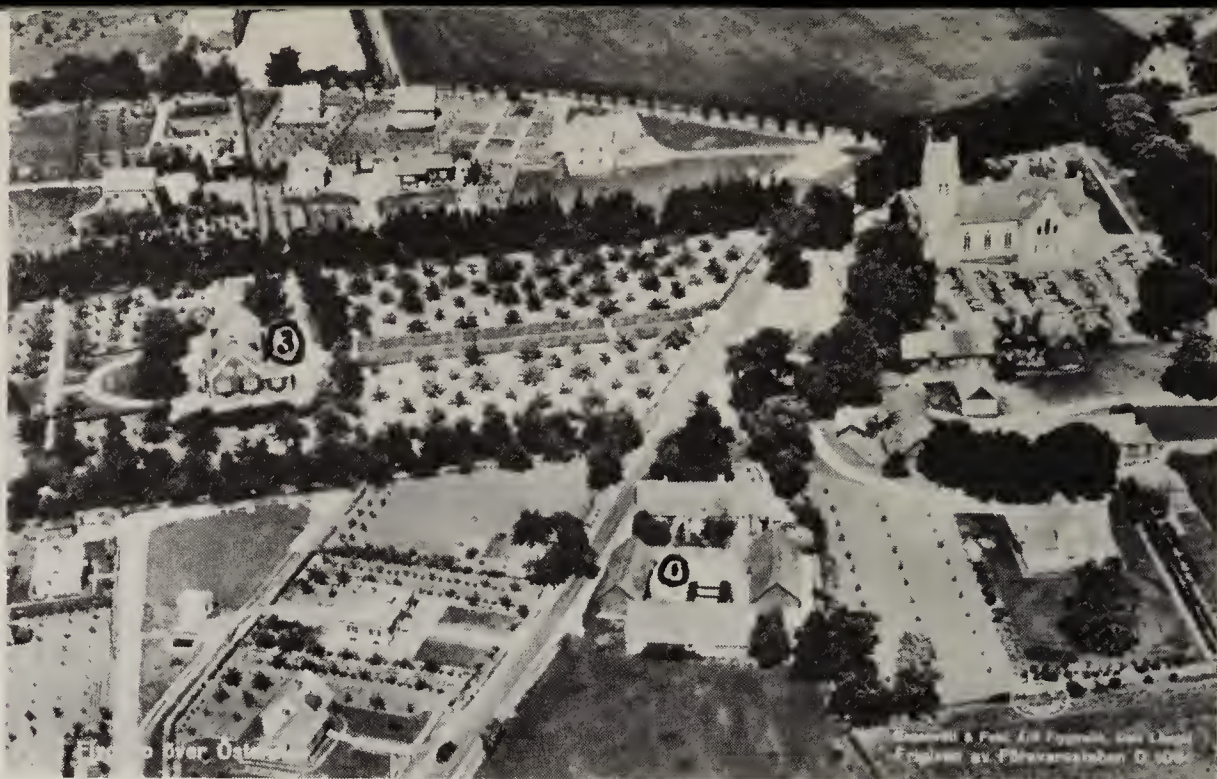
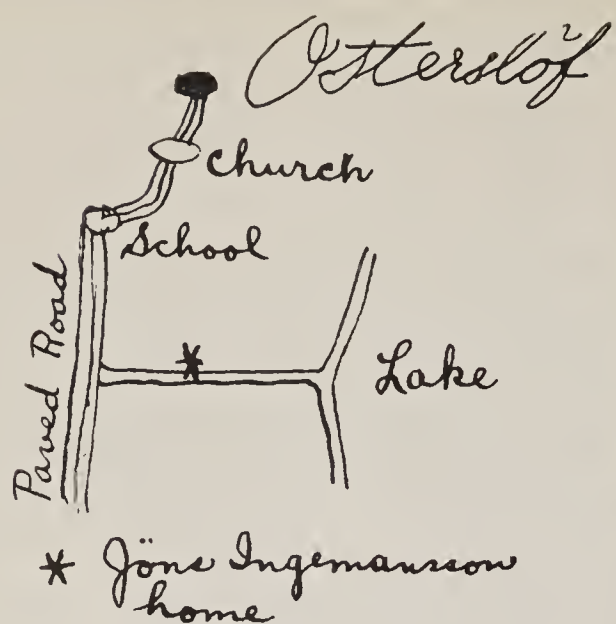
When the floor, walls and roof were completed, Jöns, Carolina and their three children moved in. Jöns finished the house as he was able. A picture in this book gives an end view of this home as it looked when Esther Sanderberg Johnson visited there recently. Practically the only change is the conversion of one room into a small store. The Ingemanssons also had income from a room by letting it

Jons Ingemansson home.

Osterslov smaskola







to a couple for living quarters. A large built-in oven was located in the center of the house. The picture shows fruit trees in bloom. The Johnsons have pleasant memories of an apple tree which their father planted and which produced good eating apples so close to the house that they could be reached from an upstairs window. Persons appearing on picture are later owners of the house.

Another picture shows the *småskola* (primary school) which the Ingemanssons children attended. The picture was taken by Anton Bengtson's niece, Margit Lundberg, in 1959, while the building was undergoing repairs. Carl's teacher there, whose married name was Fru Nils Ingemansson, became the grandmother of Emil and L. G. Palmgren who were known at Walnut Grove as John Nelson's nephews. L. G. Palmgren is now president of THE HART PRESS, Long Prairie, Minnesota, publisher of this book.

The Österslöv airview picture shows the church, upper right area, which figured prominently in the lives of the Ingemanssons and related families. Among others, August, Ida and Ben were baptized, all but Ben were confirmed, Nilla was confirmed and married and Anton was baptized in this church. Margit Lundberg explains marked areas as follows: xx *gamla prästgården*; 3 *nya prästgården*; 1 *klockaregården*.

Descendents of John I. (Jöns Ingemansson, in Sweden) and Carolina Johnson who have asked us to give directions for visiting the old home may find the accompanying sketch of value. Österslöv is located on a paved road north of Kristianstad. Traveling south from Österslöv village one reaches first the church and then the school. There are three small farms or acreages along the highway, approximately three-quarters of a mile, between the school and the road which one should take to the east to arrive at the former Jöns Ingemansson home. A short distance beyond this home is a lake. Carolina tells of doing the family laundry in this lake during summer months. It is suggested that visitors to that area stop at the church office for more information about places and people.

Life was very difficult for the peasants during the nineteenth century. Work was scarce, days long and wages low. In 1882 Jöns was fortunate in securing steady work at Karsholm's *herregård*, where he continued until leaving for America in 1896. He received  $1\frac{1}{4}$  *kroner* per day, except during harvest, when he received  $1\frac{1}{2}$  *kroner*. This *herregård* has since been divided into several smaller farms. The *torpare* houses have been removed.

Jöns and Carolina experienced Christian awakening during the spiritual revival which took place in Sweden during their time. A number of acquaintances affiliated with the *läsare* movement. Jöns and Carolina remained with the Lutheran church, state church of Sweden, but their children attended Sunday School taught by Fru Nils Ingemansson. Carl still has three bound books of Sunday School papers received during that time, having maintained nearly perfect attendance. He recalls that Fru Ingemansson was an excellent teacher.

When Nels Nelson, John's brother, returned from America (Minneapolis) for a visit, having arranged free passage in exchange for signing up ten paying passengers to America, Carolina became interested. It was agreed that Karl, now



18, should accompany the group as a scout for the family. If he found America desirable, with land as cheap as Nelson said, the Ingemanssons would sell their place in Sweden and emigrate. Besides the lure of America, Jöns and Carolina were faced with the possibility of having no home in old age, having bought their acreage on a 50-year contract rather than permanent ownership.

#### JÖNS AND CAROLINA'S CHILDREN:

Carl (Karl, in Sweden) Johan, born June 8, 1874

Anna Theresa Albertina, born November 7, 1876

August Magnus, born April 19, 1879

Ida Kristina, born September 24, 1881

Bernhard Herbert, born April 18, 1884.

Carl and Anna were born at Väckelsång, Småland; the others at Österslöv, Skåne.

In February, 1896, Jöns and Carolina received the message that Carl had bought land near Walnut Grove, Minnesota. They sold their place in Sweden, bought five full fare and one half fare tickets to America, held an auction of their household goods, spent their last night in Sweden with Johan Bengtssons and then left for a new home, arriving in New York May 3 and at Walnut Grove May 7, 1896.

Upon arrival here, Jöns changed his given name to John, retained Ingeman as second name and changed his surname from Ingemansson to Johnson, by which son Carl was already known in the community.

Carl had purchased the 171 acre SW quarter of section 7 in North Hero township for \$15 an acre from O. C. Harrison, a Chicago lawyer who had bought it from the government. Harrison had rented the land out for hay or grazing but it had never been plowed.

Carl had hired John Peterson, for \$15, to build a 14x20 two-room house and a 14x24 barn on the newly acquired land and had taken time off from his work at Tom Johnson's to help. Peterson roomed and boarded at Abel Anderson's (\$2 that week) and Carl used Peterson's horse and buggy to commute from Tom Johnson's, where he did morning and evening chores. Work started Monday morning and was completed at 5 P.M. Saturday of the same week. The lumber had cost \$130.

Perhaps we shouldn't say "completed" because Carl's father completed the house that summer and fall with a chimney, foundation, plastering and inside walls.

Travel had taken much of the money realized from sale of property in Sweden, but John and Carolina still had \$400 when they arrived. Their first purchases were two teams of horses with harnesses, a breaking plow and a wagon which doubled for hauling hay and supplies and for family transportation. A red and white cow was purchased from Albert Dahlgren's father for \$24 and a Holstein cow from Tom Johnson for \$20. Carl had previously bought a stove and a bed from Tom Johnson. Benches along the wall in the inner room of the house doubled for seating and for extra beds.

John I. cut wood at Truedson's for fence posts, bought a spool of barbed wire fencing and made an enclosure to pasture his horses and cows. Later he hauled corn cobs from Tom Johnson's for fuel in the summer and coal from Walnut Grove in winter. He secured some fuel wood from Truedson, who had a root digger and cut out some trees along the creek on his land.

Two neighbors, A. M. Bondeson and John Nelson organized a "breaking bee" for the Johnsons the week of their arrival. Bondeson and John Nelson each brought a breaking plow with horses and Swan Nelson brought a plow with his own and Liljequist's team. August Swanson came with a plow and horses. Tom and Henry Lidenberg and Martin Jacobs pooled resources for another plow with two teams. Lars Truedson couldn't come so he sent a man in his place with plow and horses. About fourteen acres were turned under that day. Some of the women came along to get acquainted and to help Carolina with meals. Carl had bought seed in March, and forty acres were put into flax that May. The crop brought fifty





and sixty cents a bushel in the fall.

On July 4 when Carl had the day off from his work at Tom Johnson's he went home with a plow and team from Johnson's and another team from Lars Truedson's. Carl and his father plowed all that day, completing the plowing of the west eighty, except for low land. The following year the balance of the quarter was plowed for the first time. Flax was seeded on "the breaking" and wheat on that which had been in flax the previous year, except for ten acres in oats and some potatoes.

Trees were purchased from a traveling salesman and planted in 1897. Some of these still remain on the west and southwest of the house. For some time after the trees were planted, until they had grown a few years, the little house was plainly visible from the north and south road bordering the west edge of the farm. Roads were mere trails, very muddy when it rained, and did not always follow section lines but cut across hay meadows and generally sought the higher places.

John I. and Carolina used their remaining money for down payment on the west half of Carl's quarter. The first summer John I. built an addition on the north side of the house, used first as a granary and later as a bedroom. The second year he and Ola Wigen built a granary and machine shed combination. That entire building is now used for grain. The cost in 1897 was \$350.

Soon after their arrival the John I. Johnsons affiliated with the Lutheran church then located three miles northwest of their home. In those days the Swedish language was used.

While his father farmed, Carl continued to "work out" until the spring of 1899. During the 1899 and 1900 seasons Carl and his father farmed together. They then had six horses and Carl bought a buggy, a necessity for courting days. In 1900 Carl and his father had 100 acres in wheat, some flax and some oats. A walking plow with three horses was used now that breaking plows were no longer needed. Cattle were pastured out at \$2.50 to \$3 per head.

In 1900 Carl took a loan of \$1800 at Tracy to pay Harrison in full and get a deed to the land. He then bought back the west eighty from his father for \$27.50 per acre. The land was valued at \$25 an acre now and the \$2.50 per acre was to cover John I.'s share in the buildings. All livestock was divided 50/50.

Carl and Mathilda Nordstrom were married November 7, 1900, making their home on this farm. Mathilda's savings of \$470 was a good-sized help for the pioneer home and farm to which she added her efforts. Mother Carolina admitted it to a friend once, adding, "*Vi behövde de så väl.*"

In November John I. and Carolina Johnson moved to the house they had built that fall on the eighty acre farm which they had purchased in Springdale township for \$22.50 an acre. Here they continued to farm, first by themselves and then in partnership with son Ben until the latter bought out their share and farmed on his own. They continued to live with him until some time after his





marriage, when they moved into the new house built for them on the Carl Johnson farm.

John Ingeman was a mild-mannered gentleman who kept his peace on all but two topics. He was honest and capable. Carl says that he did well as a carpenter and as a farmer, adding, "I would have found it extremely difficult without his help." John was content to let his wife plan and talk, as she did freely. He accepted her division of the work load, performing his part without complaint. While she milked the cows, in keeping with Swedish custom, he stayed in the field or did horse chores. He sawed and split wood which he piled neatly against the wall in the house entry, with a larger pile outside.

Grandchildren remember him in later years as quiet and good-natured, driving his sorrel horse with single seat buggy to town for groceries, peeling potatoes, reading the daily meditation on a Bible selection and leading in evening prayers—commencing promptly at 4 P.M.

While reflecting on John's admiration of his wife's ambitious nature, we may find the following conversation between him and Casper Dahlgren, while Carolina was in bed with a broken hip, of interest.

Casper, "How is Mrs. Johnson?"

John, "Very bad. It's bad for *Mor* to lie in bed like that."

Casper, "Yes, I understand. You know my wife has been bedfast a long, long time now."

John, "Oh, but that isn't so hard because she is used to it."

Volumes could be written about Carolina Johnson because she was a strong character, seemingly a born leader. In addition to barn chores, she kept a large garden of vegetables and strawberries and cared for the chickens.

Esther Bengtson remembers her Grandma's pretty metal flower stand with three shelves for flower pots. Her geraniums were lovely. The leaves were a rich, velvety green and smelled so pleasant when stroked. In the back bedroom by the west window was a fascinating asparagus fern wound up into a large ball, growing in a beautiful jardineer on a matching pedestal.





Although only 49 years old upon arrival in America, Carolina was not interested in learning the English language. She lived among Swedish-speaking people and expected them, also her grandchildren, to speak Swedish in her presence.

The writer once told her, "Grandma, do you realize that you have seven great-granddaughters but not one great-grandson?" Sadly and slowly she replied, "Yes, I know. They are all so poor." Not wishing to further point up her "misfortune" we didn't ask if God sent girl babies to her grandchildren because they were poor or if they were poor because they had no sons. She did not live to receive the announcement of her first great-grandson's birth.

In later years when Carolina was unable to attend church her children read the texts and a sermon to her each Sunday afternoon. Once Carl had just completed this reading when Ben arrived. In the conversation which followed Ben chanced to say that it was the 11th Sunday after Trinity. Mother Carolina became upset because Carl had read the portion for the 12th Sunday. He suggested that the next Sunday he would read the 11th, whereupon she protested, "Our God is a God of order," and made Ben read the texts and sermon for the 11th Sunday, while Carl sat and listened.

John Ingeman Johnson passed away August 17, 1929. Carolina lived alone for a while, relatives taking turns staying with her at night. She lived with daughter Ida for some time and then with Carl and Mathilda, where she passed away April 6, 1935. Both John I. and Carolina Johnson were buried in the Lutheran cemetery by the old Swedish Lutheran church, four miles north and a half mile west of Walnut Grove.







Carl





Carl J. Johnson

Mathilda



## CARL

Karl Johan Jönsson was born at Väckelsång, Småland, June 8, 1874 and baptized there a few days later. He was confirmed at Österslöv, Skåne, where the family moved when he was five years old.

During summer vacations before confirmation Karl worked out as herdbooy. After confirmation and completion of elementary schooling, he was expected to support himself.

Following short terms with a farmer, a bricklayer and a painter, he secured work for Frans Billing a *grochandlare* (merchant) at Christianstad. This was pleasant work with a considerate employer. When Karl left for America, after two and a half years with Billing, the latter gave him a New Testament and best wishes for God's blessing.

Karl paid 210 *kroner* for his ticket, plus an assessment of another 20 *kroner* when the ship had reached Copenhagen, reportedly because there were not enough paying passengers in the party. The rate of exchange was 26½ *kroner* to a dollar.

Karl left Malmö March 26, 1893, on a ship owned and operated by a German steamship company. He brought his own dishes and ample supplies of salt pork, dry bread and butter. Large kettles of food were set out for passengers to help themselves.

The beds were boards, without springs. Each passenger paid 1½ *kroner* for the use of a bag filled with straw to use as mattress. Passengers brought their own bedding.

The ship made stops in Denmark, Germany and in England. It was a stormy voyage. The upper deck was broken and water washed in. One of the engines went out. Pumps emptied incoming water back into the ocean and the ship was kept from sinking. Passengers were informed of the danger and restricted areas were set up. After 21 days the ship docked at Halifax, Canada.

Karl arrived at Minneapolis April 16, where he stayed ten days. Nels Nelson helped him get a job to shovel gravel for a cement mixer at \$1.50 a day. When Karl saw that room and board took nearly all his earnings he left for Walnut Grove to try farming. He worked for John Nelson until November 1, earning \$100 in addition to room and board. That winter he received \$20 and keep at Lars Truedsons. Later he worked for Daley, Liljequist, Tom Johnson and Hicks.

Upon arrival in Walnut Grove Karl was advised to change his name from Jönsson to Johnson. Some advised him to change Karl to Carl while others sug-





## Greener Pastures Didn't Lure Early Settlers of North Hero

## 2150 Supply of Whips Sold In 2 or 3 Months

As the 19th century progressed, the Swedish immigrants were fast becoming the backbone of the Walnut Grove community. In fact, the immigrants were fast becoming the backbone of the Walnut Grove community. In fact, the immigrants were fast becoming the backbone of the Walnut Grove community. In fact, the immigrants were fast becoming the backbone of the Walnut Grove community.



JOHN AUGUST SWANSON CARL JOHANSON  
Doubts were all and friendships were forged from the common struggle

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The story of Johnson and his family could be several inaccuracies, but is used here because it points a good general picture and does not contain much fiction.

[illegible]

gested Charley. He settled for Carl Johnson, retaining his second name, Johan, as in Sweden. When he received his final U.S. citizenship papers in Redwood Falls his name was legally changed to Carl Johan Johnson.

Carl bought the SW ¼ of section 7 in North Hero township February 10, 1896. On November 7, 1900 he and Mathilda Nordstrom were married in a double ceremony with Mathilda's sister, Christine, and Peter Magnell.

As the years went by and the size of the farm increased until Carl and his men farmed two, and one year three, quarters, the amount of work, number of workers, equipment and cost of maintenance all increased. Those who grew up there were not sure how to evaluate the work and the income from farming. Sometimes it seemed a secure and pleasant life; sometimes it seemed that there was nothing but debt. On the whole it was a good life.

Carl took an active part in community affairs. He served as member and treasurer of district 22 and then district 116 school boards nearly all his years on the farm. He always favored well trained teachers, ample equipment and good teaching aids. He worked for better roads, a telephone line, farmers' elevator, rural electrification and better township bridges. He often served on the township election boards, and considered voting a sacred duty and privilege. He usually gave his support to the Republican party. He served as member and treasurer of the North Hero township board of directors for many years.

Carl considered rolling prairie land more beautiful than wooded areas but did like trees around the buildings. He enjoyed a variety of shade trees and was especially fond of spruce, birch and mountain ash. He thought of fruit trees as a necessity. He was fond of hedges, of roses and chrysanthemums, preferring growing flowers to cut flowers. He was very fond of raspberries and strawberries.

He served several terms as a trustee and as a deacon in the Trinity Lutheran Church and was a leader in movements for expanded and improved church facilities, willing to head subscription lists for needed funds. He has worked for complete perpetual care and good maintenance of the Lutheran cemetery at the site of the old Swedish Lutheran church. An outstanding experience was his attendance as delegate to Augustana Synod in Philadelphia.

The one vacation trip which Carl and his family made was to Duluth, up the North Shore, across Wisconsin and into Upper Peninsula of Michigan, in 1927. Carl and Mathilda have visited their children in each of the places in which they lived, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Michigan and Texas.





Carl wanted his children to have a good education, providing horse and buggy transportation while they were at home and helping with their higher education as far as possible.

Being tender-hearted, Carl has helped several young people out of tough spots, usually finding it necessary to borrow to lend them. He didn't advertise those deeds but we learned about them from beneficiaries. Having learned about some of these, we asked him if he came out all right. His answer was a firm "Yes, definitely."

Mathilda was very conscientious in the care, protection and training of her children. Tucked in with work there was even time for Mother to think of play, singing, artistic handwork and humor.

One of the treasured memories that Carl and Mathilda's children have is that of the entire family gathered for worship every evening. Christianity in their daily living was a matter of course. Their lives were committed into the care of the God who loves.

In May, 1958, Mathilda became very sick. For several weeks Carl and the children stayed with her night and day. It seemed that God would be taking her Home but she became much better, although she is still bedfast and requires much care. Her illness gave her family opportunity to become better acquainted. They hadn't realized how patiently and tenderly her husband could care for her. In all there was evidence of more love than had been visible while all were struggling with the business of making a living.

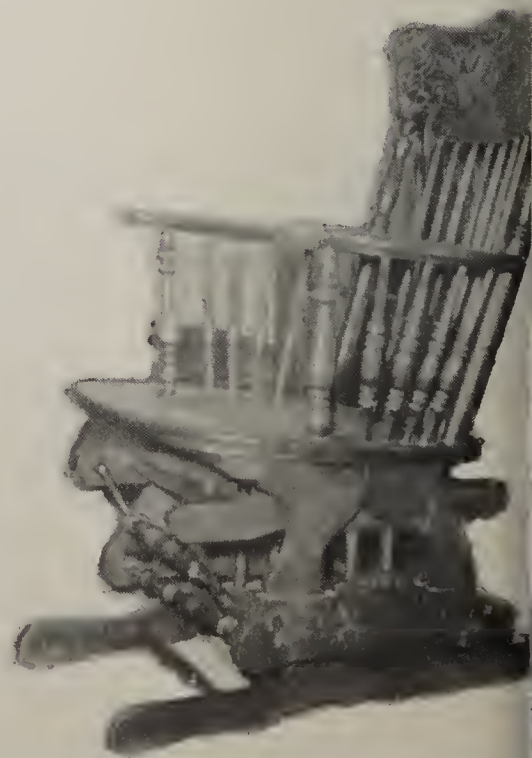
"May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit rest upon us and upon our work and worship done in his name. May he give light to guide us, courage to support us and love to unite us, now and forevermore."

## CHILDREN

Carl and Mathilda's children, Esther, Hilma, Alvar and Victor, were born at the farm home in North Hero township, Walnut Grove. They were baptized members of Trinity Lutheran Church, where the three oldest were confirmed. Victor, born April 15, 1912, passed away February 19, 1913, from gastroenteritis following influenza.

Esther passed away March 24, 1960 from causes following chronic myocarditis.

Below, left: At Carl and Mathilda's 55th wedding anniversary, 1955. Right: a wedding gift, 1900.







## ESTHER

Tuesday afternoon, September 9, 1902, while Carl Johnson was miles from home helping his brother August with threshing, Carl and Mathilda's first child was born. Without telephone or car to summon aid, Mathilda was alone when her daughter arrived. Esther was a very small baby, needing much tender care. During her first years her contacts with the outside world were quite limited. That kept her more bashful. Her parents were busy breaking sod, planting trees and crops, and building shelters for grain, animals and man.

Before bridges and fences had been built, people living to the northeast drove across the farm to the southwest to avoid a number of creek crossings. That and lack of fences meant cattle watching. Once a sheep buck chased Esther all the way into the house. More than once she was seen chasing the most dangerous bovine with a cornstalk.

It was strange that she was not afraid, because later when she started school she often stayed indoors at recess to watch Alma Bergblom draw and paint rather than to go out and chance being teased by older children who might play rough.

During the early 1900's the Swedish language was used in most homes of this area. This meant that the oldest child in each family had to learn English in school. Exceptions were children of mixed nationality. Esther remembers being glad that she could speak Swedish, but envying her Andersen cousins for their ability to speak such fluent English.





Esther remembers feeling a keen enjoyment in exploring the old slough north of the home buildings after it had been tilled. There was tall grass, reeds, cattails, snail shells and, hidden in the branches of the small water willows, a variety of bird nests with beautifully colored eggs. These eggs were dainty and small in their cozy nests near enough to the ground that children could peak in and enjoy the secrets previously protected by acres of water. Because the children had been taught to respect the homes of birds, they approached cautiously and loved as they looked, with a feeling of awe that was akin to reverence.

Before Hilma was old enough to offer any companionship for her sister, Esther liked to roam about exploring the world in which she lived. She liked to go down the hill to the road on the South. This was a constant worry to her mother because of the creeks there, containing considerably more water than at present, and winding about for more bridges too. Once, while Esther was still too young to be on the road alone, a man came by in his and Walnut Grove's first automobile and so thoroughly frightened Esther that as a child she never went that direction alone again. Persons whose family history contains the "Plum Creek Neighbors" supplement can see a picture of that very car and decide for themselves whether such a buggy running along without horses wasn't frightening looking.

After this experience Esther went North in search of adventure. Once she followed her father and Carl Bergblom but didn't realize that they had made a wide arc around the slough. She walked into the grass and reeds, much taller than she, until she became stuck in the soft mud and began to sink. Fortunately her father heard her cries and found her in time. This could have been her last run-away, but it wasn't. She later had some very close calls in run-aways involving horses.

An earlier memory, was that of Esther's mother teaching her to say, "Thank you for the cup," to her cousins, Edna and Iva Andersen, when the Chris Andersens from Slayton and the Carl Johnsons from Walnut Grove visited together at their Uncle Magnells near Tracy. Esther now says, "I still have that cup and saucer. Thanks for the saucer. I suppose that word was too big for me when I thanked for the cup." Continuing the reminiscence, Esther says, "I can also remember how our family once drove with horses and buggy to Slayton to visit Uncle Chris and Aunt Lena. They and their efficient children froze some very good ice cream for us."

The visit to her Uncle Axel's that Esther remembers best was when they lived on the farm and she was very young. She walked over there. They persuaded her to stay until the boys were through with their chores and she'd get a ride home. Ernest rigged up his carbide bicycle lamp, lit it, helped his cousin on the bike and peddled away to the Carl Johnson home with their frightened but thrilled little daughter.

Enjoyments, besides visiting, were: taking care of her baby brother who was born when Esther was nine, admiring flowers, attending Friday afternoon painting classes at district 22, music, watching her father repair harnesses, being along at hay-stacking time, seeing Abel Anderson's pretty little horses and looking at any clean, little, baby animals; eating occasional sweets such as bananas with cream and sugar, strawberry shortcake, raspberry juice mixed with sugar and water to drink, malted milks, chocolate candy, nuts, sucking the nectar from sweet, red clover, playing the old reed organ and singing, midsummer picnics, Christmas programs, pretty candles and trimmings on evergreen Christmas trees.

Mother Mathilda had a beautiful, curved-top, metal-covered, new-looking trunk with embossed ornamentations in delicate, subdued colors. To Esther its contents were equally fascinating. Even the covers of the two compartments had pretty pictures. But the most interesting was the samples of handwork that Mathilda had made in sloyd school in Sweden, and a few she had added during



her early years in America. There were eight different kinds of knitting, several beautiful samples of hand sewing and crocheting, beads sewed together into fancy designs, bits of lace and brilliantly colored velvet and feather plumes. The directions for the knitting were written in a notebook which had a carefully drawn fuchsia bloom on its cover.

The Johnson children played much with animals, especially calves which they hitched to a cart.

In those days, before cars and good roads, neither church attendance nor school attendance was as regular as at present, so more of child training depended on the parents. As soon as the girls were old enough their mother taught them to crochet and knit. They were also allowed to do all kinds of baking early in life. Baking was fun. The art of knowing how many corn cobs to put into the old, black, castiron range, and at what intervals of time, while baking an angel food cake was also mastered. It was quite a challenge and accomplishment. Baking good bread with the old style hard cakes of "yeast foam" was also fascinating, and a twice or thrice weekly chore. It wasn't quite as much fun to churn butter, but it had to be done. If the cream was the right temperature and consistency butter came quite fast. Operating the hand powered washing machine, stopping to rub soiled portions of clothing by hand, against the washboard interior of the tub, was tedious, but that too had to be done.

Uncle Nels lived fairly close by. Their children and the Carl-Mathilda children were double cousins. As Esther rethinks the past she concludes that the Nels-Anna family influenced her life perhaps even more than they realized. When Ella took music lessons it was felt that Esther should take lessons too. Ella was in "town school" and sort of paved the way for Esther and Hilma. She told them what it was like there and what they ought to wear and do. After Ella had completed the eighth grade she continued on through high school and then to Mankato Teachers' College. Esther recalls hearing Aunt Anna telling her own parents that girls should go to school and learn to do something in addition to housework. Not many continued school beyond high school in those days, but Ella did. Carl and Mathilda thought their children should have more schooling too.

After Esther had completed the eighth grade in district 22, then located two miles west of the Johnson home, all three of the children transferred to school in Walnut Grove.

The entire high school was then seated in one room, with about fifty students. There were three teachers, namely, the superintendent, the principal and one lady teacher. The eighth grade teacher helped out with one class. A class room was also the library; another class room doubled as science laboratory. The third teacher taught classes in the front part of the assembly room, while keeping an eye on others who should be studying. How different the Walnut Grove High School became some years later!

About this time Esther enjoyed Luther League conventions and Bible Camps. After high school she stayed home a year because college didn't really interest her. But a year later she decided to make "the plunge" into the "unknown" among "sophisticated looking" strangers, away from home. However, those years proved to be very interesting. She enjoyed both the subjects and the students. Picnics and dorm parties added other pleasant memories.

With her B.A. degree, cum laude, and a teacher's certificate, she again started out among strangers—this time for three years.

By this time she and ANTON BENGTSON had decided to be married in the spring of 1930. Since Esther had always wanted to spend some time at the Lutheran Bible Institute, the fall and winter quarters now seemed the logical time for that. The Bible, and related subjects connected with putting Christianity to work in daily living, were studied.



In some ways Anton reminded Esther of her Mother. He enjoyed music, poetry, beautiful flowers, refined people, and neat workmanship and surroundings. He was sensitive and kind, yet strong and athletic. To understand him better we could go back to Sweden and meet his ancestors and family, with a look at the areas of his childhood.

He was the sixth child of Johan Bengtsson (born in Bleking to a family with several ancestors in government naval service) and his wife Nilla Olsdotter Bengtsson (born in Skåne of hardworking plain people). Anton was born in Villans Harad, Österslöv parish, Skåne, Sweden. Two years later the family moved to Riseberga, to a fairly large farm on the shore of a beautiful lake. This was an ideal place for them all to learn to swim, skate, fish, and invent mischief. The older brothers delighted in taking Anton, the youngest, piggy-back out into the lake and dunking him. The four sisters of course got together for their share of work and play too.

In the course of time Anton had one more brother and two more sisters. The latter were Anna and Marta, who have also come to U. S. A. to live. Anna is Mrs. Fred West, Walnut Grove and Marta is Mrs. Harry Erickson, Minneota, Minnesota.

The Johan Bengtsson children learned to identify and studied the habits of fish and waterfowl, including swans which sometimes froze stuck in the ice when sudden frost caught them out a fall night. On one roof a pair of storks used a big wheel as base for their nest. Another bird of interest was the cuckoo, about the size of our robin. It made a hollow, idiotic sound, and was a lazy bird laying its eggs in nests of smaller birds, letting the latter hatch and feed cuckoo nestlings along with their own young. Those large intruders often took more than their share of food too. The saying in the early 1900's in Sweden was that when the cuckoo started to crow in the spring the children could put away their shoes and run barefoot.

When Anton was about five years old the family moved to a smaller, undeveloped farm near Perstorp . . . with peat land, woods, rocks, and no buildings. In the course of time, rocks were removed, peat cut up and dried for commercial use, some trees removed and buildings erected. This little farm became a cozy and comfortable home and source of income for many years.

The woodland left uncleared, with its variety of berries, birds and animals, from squirrels, rabbits and porcupine to deer, elk and moose, provided both food and education. The children built squirrel homes and rabbit hutches. Squirrels furnished entertainment as they played on a wheel in their two-room house part way up in a tree.

There was work to do too. Flowers and vegetables needed care in their own garden. There was similar work in neighbors' gardens, after the children had learned how. Nearby were furniture factory, vinegar factory and glass factories where work was available for those who were old enough.

At the age of fifteen Anton felt quite grown up when he tempered files at a factory in Landskrona . . . far enough from home that he stayed there a whole year. Later he tempered glass in a hometown factory. As he became older he helped make elaborate light fixtures, until he found his most satisfying work; namely, lathe work—making precise machine tools, at Tyringe. All these occupations helped develop a sense of exactness, perfection and beauty. He liked such work. But there were so many labor strikes then that he decided to try life in America.

From January 25, to February 15, 1925, was spent aboard ship to U.S.A. He arrived in Walnut Grove two days later. Here he found many American customs to be so new and strange, and the language so difficult, that he wished he had stayed in Sweden. He missed old friends. He definitely disliked dirty, smelly hogs. But he liked cattle, and in time he learned to understand and speak the American language, and became accustomed to ideas and things which had previously seemed strange. After this adjustment he adopted the USA as his own country, becoming a naturalized citizen.



Esther and Anton's first home was on the Carl J. Johnson farm in SE corner of sec. 34 of Gales township, Redwood County, which her parents had bought in 1918 from Hakan Nelson. Nelsons had homesteaded this farm during the early days of the Swedish Lutheran Church organized in 1872. Though the barn was swaybacked by 1930, and roofs leaked, it became a cherished place to the Bengtsons during the ten years they were there. The land was laid out in big fields, and there were some very good crops, except during the "dust blizzard" years.

In October, 1931, daughter NAOMI CORRINE was born. Anton and Esther were like other parents as they cuddled, taught, and played with their little 5-lb. 15 oz. pride and joy. Those first years many Sundays after church they had dinner and a visit with Grandma and Grandpa Johnson, then afternoon play with cousins Rita and Donald West. Other playmates were her Walfrid and Pearson cousins, Janice Nordstrom, and a few schoolmates.





Naomi enjoyed to make mud pies, play house, pound nails, play with dogs and goats, follow and imitate her parents, and later, in 1940's, ride her bicycle, make paper dolls and style doll-clothing to fit her dolls. She spent much time by her mother's old sewing machine, sewing and singing, even while they lived at the first farm.

In the winter of 1936, when the whole area was snowbound, the three Bengtsons enjoyed the big drifts, plenty of rest, the farm animals, books that they hadn't time to read earlier, their hand-cranked phonograph, and each other.

But 1938 was a year of testing. Hogs got cholera, horses got sleeping sickness, Anton was scalded by steam from the tractor radiator, and Esther developed strep throat, followed by rheumatic illness that put her to bed for months. Though in many ways it was like a nightmare, there were compensations too. Relatives and friends helped in countless ways. God blessed them by His own all-wise and super-human methods.

In 1940 Esther's parents retired from active farming and invited her and Anton to rent the home place. The Bengtsons lived in the smaller house on the farm, and her parents stayed in their own home. The Johnsons installed electricity, a water system, and bathroom fixtures in both houses, requiring the building of an addition to the smaller house to provide for it.

In August, 1947, Carl and Mathilda Johnson bought the Egge house in Walnut Grove and made that their home. Anton, Esther and Naomi moved to the main house on the farm, renting out the other house.

This was the beginning of Naomi's last year in Walnut Grove High School, and proved to be her last year at home. Before that her life had been almost equally divided between the first two homes; and her school attendance divided between district 35 in Gales township and 116 in North Hero. While at home she had learned to play the piano well, but never played in public after getting stage fright the first time she was scheduled for a solo. She became a very efficient tractor driver for her Dad, helping him several years during harvest season.

After graduating as salutatorian of her high school class in June, 1948, she attended Gustavus Adolphus College one year and then took a secretarial course at Minneapolis Business College.

She had learned to bake and cook whatever she set about. She can crochet, knit and embroider, and sew most any kind of clothing. She is very thankful to her Grandma Johnson for teaching her to knit, and especially for helping her knit the Swedish Knitting Sampler, for teaching her to sing, "My Sweetheart's the Man in the Moon" and to bake an apple pie. She enjoys people, and can spend much time just visiting, with stranger or friend. She studied first aid; enjoys swimming.

For three years, starting April, 1950, she worked at the Citizens State Bank in Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

While at Minneapolis, Naomi had met DONALD WINTER who was then attending the University of Minnesota School of Agriculture, graduating in 1950. He also belonged to the 47th division of the National Guard, which was sent to Camp Rucker, and some, including Don, into active duty in Korea. Donald Leigh had come into the family of Ruth Gillespie and Leigh Porter Winter at Redwood Falls by adoption at the age of three months. Don later had a sister, Mary.

Naomi and Donald were married July 25, 1952, on her father's birthday, about a month after Don's return from Korea. They farmed the L. P. Winter farm east of Redwood Falls for a few years, then moved to Fort Worth, Texas, where Don has been engaged in sales work. They have four children: MICHAEL LEIGH, ANN MARIE, JAMES DONALD, NANCY KAY.

All of the children have learned to sing as early as they learned to speak, and now they have all learned to swim. Naomi calls Mike an ordinary all-around boy, talented in music, seeming to have talent in numbers and color. He likes school, climbing trees, and TV. Ann and Nancy are their mother's little helpers.





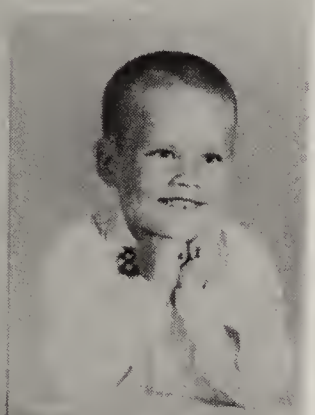
Michael Leigh Winter



Ann Marie Winter



Nancy Kay Winter



James Donald Winter



They love music and sing a lot. Ann has been described as an intense child, while Nancy has been called impish. Jim has been referred to as a perfectionist who is mechanically inclined. He is very, very active . . . loves music too.

Naomi had always said that an only child was too lonely. She and Donald truly love their children and are glad that these have the companionship of each other, though there are admittedly times when there is much work involved.

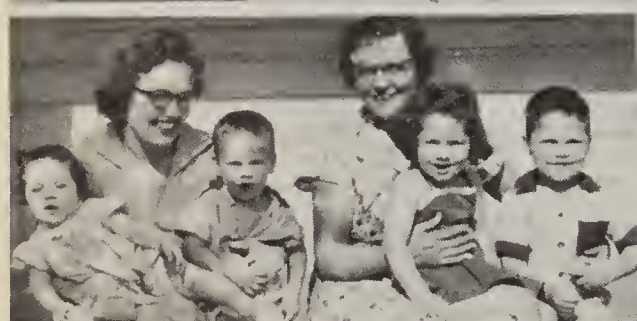
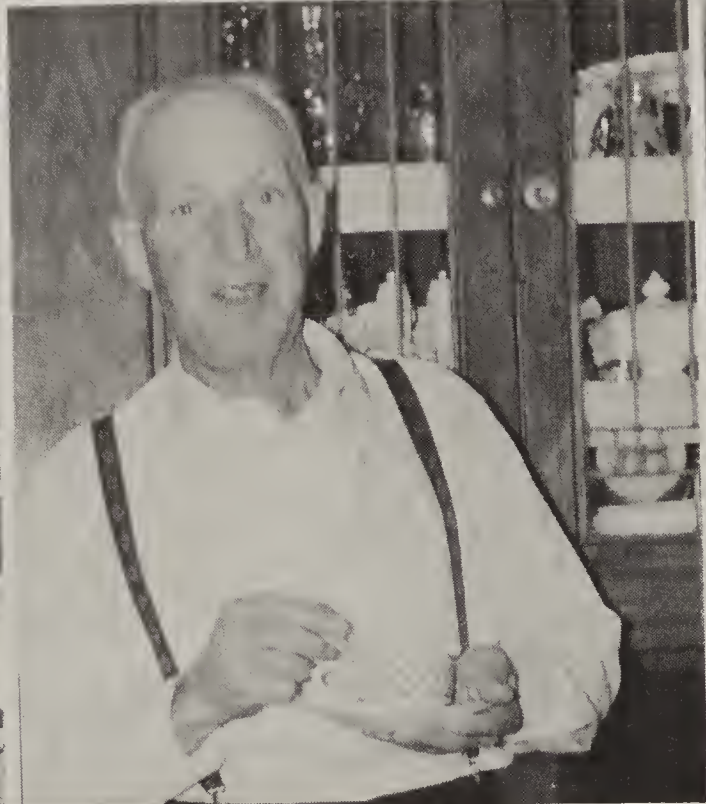
Donald enjoys to read, listen to music and to sing, go for rides and see interesting scenery and localities, go to state fairs, especially to look at cattle and hogs, but also much else. He would like to some day own a spot in the country and have a few animals for the children.

**NAOMI'S MEMORIES:** By Redwood Falls: Their family, Mother, Dad and three children, squeezed into their jeep truck; the purebred Suffolk lambs "bedded down" in the basement shower in February; the dairy cows they raised; the Duroc Congress in Topeka, Kansas; the old wood-burning furnace on the farm; their trip to Texas, furniture and all,—they were singing "As the Covered Wagon Rolls Right Along," making them feel like pioneers of 1956. Then, Texas' wonderful weather!!! They were especially happy to live in the area of longer summer weather and less wintry weather.

They found some fine friends in Texas, unusually considerate and helpful church members. Their church has good educational buildings and equipment, not only for Sunday School and nursery, but also for kindergarten and first grade week-day school. The Winter children are all in Sunday school now and this year all, including Nancy, attended Vacation Bible School.

Naomi writes: "I find it hard to write a story. Maybe when I am older and look back, our life story will seem clear and beautiful, and our life purposeful. Now, as young adults, we are still planning and trying, with God's guidance, to





use our talents wisely. I am so thankful for the four wonderful, happy and healthy children, and for my husband, and I trust we may have many more happy hours ahead of us."







## HILMA

Hilma Mathilda, second daughter of Carl and Mathilda Johnson, has always felt honored that she received her mother's name. While living in the North, among Scandinavian people, she took her first name for granted, but in the South she enjoyed having a name which very few had heard of before.

Although Carl had hoped for a boy, his new daughter was accommodating in arriving late Sunday afternoon, September 17, 1905, so that it was convenient for him to pick up Mrs. Martin Jacobs, the midwife who delivered most of the Plum Creek area babies at that time, and Bertha Nordstrom who was to help her sister a short time, being corn harvesting was imminent.

In those days when a pastor had charge of several congregations services were held once or twice a month. When Esther had arrived her baptism had to be delayed a few weeks until the pastor should come to that community, a cause of concern to Mathilda and Carl and to Grandma Nordstrom, who lived with them. This new baby was more fortunate. Pastor Melin would be coming the following Sunday and so arrangements were made for baptism at that time. (The pastor came to Walnut Grove by train on Saturdays and families of the congregation took turns meeting him there, keeping him over Sunday and returning him to the depot in time for the train on Monday.)

### *Early Memories*

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Finding a skunk in the muskrat trap; drowning gophers; playing in the hay shed manger by barn; hunting eggs in stolen nests; galloping along on sticks, pretending they were horses; catching crayfish by lifting stones in Plum Creek flowing through a corner of the home farm; catching a sackful of fire flies on the Harold Wigen eighty which Dad farmed. Wearing old dresses and bloomers as swim suits; making a diving board under the bridge; Mabel Anderson and I wading on our knees before it was warm enough to go swimming; exploring the area on neighbor's land to the south where the original sod house was located, as described in "On the Banks of Plum Creek" by Ingalls; spring floods; Alvar and Victor Nordstrom's close call while swimming in a swift, flood-swollen creek;



slipping into water from rock on bank of creek while showing visiting cousins around, when wearing my favorite pink crepe dress with dainty flowers and black velvet bows and sash.

Seeing prairie chickens in the Breckenridge hay meadow, while picking flowers there; hearing meadow larks singing along our way to country school. Trying to skate with insecure, wobbly clamp skates. Coasting with homemade sleds; Victor Nordstrom's faster, store sled.

Being spanked for carrying too many dishes at once and breaking some, while Alvar cried with me and pleaded, "De e nog nu, Mama." Going out in the grove to find and comfort Esther who had jumped through an open window when Aunt Bertha approached her threateningly for using the sewing machine, not realizing that mother Mathilda approved. Receiving a beautiful factory made doll from Uncle Magnell and Aunt Christine, my baptismal sponsors.

The beauty of the church decorated for Christmas; thinking how dreadful it must be to grow up and not have a part in the Christmas program. John Nelson as church custodian and one-man welcoming committee. The divided page hymnbook used by church organist. Attending vacation Bible School at districts 22, 19 and 62. My absence the day a photographer came.

Mother or Father conducting daily family devotions before retiring at night. The comfort of being near Mother during severe thunderstorms and having her pray a Swedish psalm written for such occasions.

The tramps who used to come around, "One Mitten," or "Augustana Synod Tramp," slept in furnace room and having tried to sit on stick chairs we had built when Ella and Victor stayed there, left them broken.

The big bowl of strawberries Grandma Johnson brought for Dad's birthday, June 8. (Sometimes later.) Dad's return from Chicago, after shipping cattle, with fruit and dress goods. Once he returned without his mustache; we had to get acquainted with him again because he looked so different.

Grandpa Johnson peeling potatoes and piling up wood in their entry; Grandma Johnson milking the cows.

Pulling twine out of the straw stack and letting two calves suck on it; one of them died. Making twine halters and slipping them on young horses which had become used to us while feeding at the hay shed manger. Alvar and I being seen by Mother, one of us on the back of one of these young horses and the other holding its tail. We never tried that again. Being kicked in the stomach by a little colt when both he and I were following in the furrow as Dad plowed the garden with a walking plow.

Morris Rindy and I, only beginners and old enough for first grade, being called "Kindergarten" class our first year and "First Grade" our second year. Skipping second and fourth grades to complete the twelfth at age 17. Writing spelling words on desk in first grade, for want of something to do. Fortunately, caught by the teacher and getting a "0" that day; the last time I ever tried dishonesty during all my years of schooling. Alvar having memorized my school closing day recitation, running up and reciting it while I was waiting for the flag I was to hold as I spoke.

George Anderson's running ahead of our slow horse and buggy all the way to school because he didn't have time to wait for a ride. We entered school grounds at same time but he had no horse to put up in barn as we did. Going out to feed and water our horse during noon hour each day.

Coming home from school one chilly April day, met at door by Aunt Anna who told us to stay outside because doctor was there. The agony of hearing a baby cry and thinking it was mother and not being permitted to go to her. Our delight at finding we had a baby brother. We had ordered babies from a catalog but evidently never expected delivery. Seeing Victor walk at ten months. Holding him when he was sick, the day before he died, while mother was busy preparing supper. Schauer coming to prepare Victor for burial.

Seeing Mother weep when Aunt Anna called and said her mother had passed



away. Thinking how dreadful it would be if my mother died. Standing up in surrey as we left Uncle Nels' house in the funeral procession.

My most vivid recollection was a phenomenon occuring late one night when our family was returning home in the surrey, after having seen a movie upstairs in the Walnut Grove Opera House, frightened by thoughts of the villain with long finger nails. All about us was pitch dark except for the weird, faint light of a kerosene lamp on each side of the buggy. Suddenly, as we were on the largest of the bridges across Plum Creek, it seemed light as day, lasting a few seconds. The next day we learned that others had shared our experience, supposing a large meteor had fallen.

Another awesome experience—arriving at the mail box after being told not to go, and finding a snake coiled up at the base, thinking it was the devil.

I recall Alvar and I getting the mail in 1914, this time with permission, and reading the headline announcing declaration of war in Europe. Alvar ran home crying, "Ja ska gömma Papa." I attempted to console him by explaining that it was far away, little realizing how close it would soon come to all of us.

I can still see Dad laughing and enjoying a race between Mrs. Lidenberg in a buggy pulled by her driving horse and me on horse back; our old gray mare brushing us off by passing under a low branch in a grove; walking on rim of stock water tank without falling in; Swen playing the harmonica and jigging at a party at the A. M. Bondeson home; Alvar cultivating corn when nine years old; Esther plowing; Alvar hauling a specified amount of wood to the basement for each opportunity to drive the car as far as town; Alvar's fall down the hill behind the barn; picking cobs in the hog yard; shutting and opening the windmill; milking during threshing time; raising chickens, ducks and geese, buying a box camera with my own money; cleaning and trimming kerosene lamps; Esther getting to the organ ahead of me each day.

I can taste the chocolate animals which Royston, who worked for Dad, brought us; coffee or water sipped through grain straws when bringing lunch to men in harvest fields; Mother's special "eggaröra" and thick fudge frosting on cake. I can feel the embarrassment of the day that I was dressed up in Aunt Tilda's corset, skirt, blouse and heels during eighth grade exam week when Mother was in the hospital.

I'll never forget: the many good times I had with Florence Karleen; the spill that she, Alvar and I had in a snowbank and our walking to town, the team having gone on before us; Florence and her brothers riding horseback in the rain; spending all day, first running around in the pasture to catch a horse with a bucket of oats and a hidden bridle, then harnessing and hitching him to buggy for a slow ride to town with eggs and cream, to bring back groceries. Having our horse's oats ration cut down because a man told Dad that we speeded through town, the only stretch where the horse would show any speed, having shifted to high as he crossed the railroad tracks.

A keen appreciation of my sister, Esther, who blazed the way for me. Her determination to find out how things work and to repair that which didn't work, while I gave up and never did learn to do things the way she can. Her checking me once when I used a slang word, removing any desire to repeat; her kindness and consideration for everyone. She still is tops.

Alvar's trying to win a trip with Mother to North Dakota by sitting Indian fashion instead of with knees together and feet outward, when he was four years old. He stayed at home with Dad, Esther and Bessie Anderson. I stayed at Uncle Magnells.





### *School and Work*

My extreme timidity in school. Encouragements received from some of the teachers. Miss O'Neil suggested when I was a freshman that I should go to college. Incredible! Elected president of junior class and again of senior class, probably because someone suggested that Hilma could bridge the gap between the "country kids" and the "town kids"—mighty strange being I was such a timid country kid. Had parts in junior and senior plays. Enjoyed acting. Graduated as valedictorian, not much of an achievement in a class of twelve. How much greater our children's accomplishments, with classes of more than 400, 2000 in high school!

Lutheran Bible Institute summer camps and one term during spring of 1927 were helpful to private life and later role as Bible class teacher.

High school scholarship, first semester's tuition, probably deciding factor in my going to college. What a small part of college costs! Esther was in her freshman year at Gustavus Adolphus. Most helpful during my college career: speech classes, debate teams, College Missionary Society executive committees. Made Pi Kappa Delta.

Received A.B. degree magna cum laude in 1927; took civil service exam for teaching on Indian Reservation; accepted teaching position at Crystal Falls public schools first part of October, at \$130 monthly. While enroute to Crystal Falls a wire came offering me a position on a reservation in Oklahoma at much higher pay. Have never been sorry that I had accepted the lesser paying position because, after one rough year in the Junior High School, I thoroughly enjoyed five years of teaching in the Senior High School. Dad's cousins in Crystal Falls and Iron River, the First Lutheran Church friends and the congenial people at whose home I lived contributed to my appreciation of those years. Numerous outdoor activities and experiences in that beautiful country were highlights. Among the reminders of Crystal Falls is an old black sateen bathing suit which has provided much party fun for me and daughter, Irene.

### *Marriage and Family*

After completing a term of summer school at the University of Minnesota in 1929, I spent the month of August at home on the farm. A Gustavus student, ARTHUR B. PEARSON (born at Bancroft, Iowa, December 20, 1904, and graduated from Litchfield, Minnesota, high school), had taken Alvar's place as student pastor and Johnson farm hand, after Alvar became incapacitated by broken collar bones and an appendectomy. When Art and I attended Esther and Anton's wedding we became engaged, on March 23, 1930. We were married at Walnut Grove June 22, 1933, following Arts ordination into the ministry. Uncle Magnell had kiddingly told us that he wanted a white vest and patent leather shoes for the wedding because he was instrumental in bringing us together, having been asked by the church at Walnut Grove to find a summer school student for them. Uncle Magnell received the vest. Alvar and Art had roomed together at St. Peter, and again at the seminary.

Our first home and office was one unfinished room, without conveniences, in the back part of the little church at Onamia, Minnesota. We arrived to find a rubbish heap at the door and high weeds or quack grass everywhere. Art cleaned it all up and the next summer we had beautiful flowers in the yard and in a "window" box, a martin colony in a house built for them, a good vegetable garden and the interior of our room lined with Nu-Wood.





The first year's income covered car expenses necessary to the work with a residue of \$15 a month, inadequate for food alone even in those years.

The second year was not much better. I washed clothes by hand most of the first year until a retired widower invited us to wash with him. Once he said, "I may die soon and then my Maytag will be for sale." There were plenty of machines for sale in those days but very few people had money to buy them. Art and I called on the area residents constantly, taking lunch with us so that we could stay out longer and not waste gas driving home. Art turned down two calls elsewhere, hoping that things would become better. Attendance and membership doubled, but people were poor, so couldn't do much toward our subsistence. They built a parsonage by volunteer labor, though the \$1600 loan given them by the Mission Board was insufficient to build it large enough. We never lived in the house. Our experience in Onamia was trying and generally unpleasant, although the Axel Petersons are remembered with gratitude for their help and many kindnesses, another family for their good attitude.

We moved to Hershey, Nebraska, in December, 1935. As in Onamia, an important activity was trying to borrow money for living expenses and hospital bills. We were turned down by a loan company whose various charges would have added up to the equivalent of 45% interest, because "income is inadequate to warrant the risk." The people at the church were very sociable and kind. We were invited out by most of them. They were all good cooks. It was at Hershey that I first tasted and liked ostkaka. The congregation responded well to the gospel message, a compensation.

Our children were born at North Platte while we lived in Hershey. Arthur JOHN, December 14, 1936 and IRENE Lenore, October 24, 1939. I worked part time selling life insurance and later writing for the County Newspaper. In 1938 I won a Kelvinator refrigerator in an essay type contest sponsored by the Kelvinator Nash Corp.

We moved to Oakland, Nebraska, in December, 1940. Spent six pleasant years there. Beginning with our second year, income was sufficient for living and the beginning of a slow whittling down of what we had borrowed our first seven years, to be followed by repayment of Art's school debts. It was a great day in 1955 when we finally repaid the last of those loans and interest.

In 1942 we traded the only new car we had owned for an older car, and took an additional loan for down payment on 160 acres of land at \$75 an acre, which my parents had been offering to many and trying to sell at that price through real estate agents. This transaction proved helpful. The congregation celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary and Art's tenth ordination anniversary in June, 1943.

Family Group, December 1941. John and Irene with Grandparents.







Left to right, above: Riding horseback in Michigan; panning gold in California; worshipping God at Oakland; picking cotton in Alabama; gathering grapefruit in Florida.

From January 3, 1947, until December 1, 1949, we were at Iron Mountain, Michigan where Art was pastor of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Living in that beautiful, wooded Upper Peninsula and in a 20,000 population little city was a worthwhile experience. One especially enjoyable summer vacation was a camping trek through Upper Michigan. Again we found many fine Christian people. Art and I took some courses in Education at the Iron Mountain extension branch of the University of Michigan. I also took a summer course in the extension school, taught by a professor from North Michigan College of Education at Marquette. Did a little substitute teaching.

Because John developed flu and bronchial asthma so often during cold weather we acted on the doctor's advice to try a milder climate; bought a trailer house and spent January 1949, traveling through Florida. Then the children and I stayed at Clearwater where they attended school and I did substitute teaching. Art returned to Iron Mountain to batch and carry on his work in the church there. We returned in April.

That year I was Superior Conference W.M.S. president, visiting all of the district conventions and many of the local organizations during the summer and fall. Art held a number of positions in addition to his work in local church, including membership on Augustana Theological Seminary Board of Directors.

On December 1, 1949 we left for Dallas, Texas. Art was then on salary from the Augustana Lutheran Church Board of American Missions; assignment was to study the mission work begun in North Dallas and make recommendations for its future. The result was relocation and organization of a new congregation, the Walnut Hill Lutheran Church, which increased to 103 communicant and 175 baptized members by 1957. It was in a new area of the city where people moved in and out constantly so that more than 300 communicant members had been members by the time 103 were left on the books. However, that was a good start for the South where beginnings are slower for our church. The congregation gave us a TV set for Christmas and Art's birthday in 1955.

Living in Dallas was a thrilling experience. Its charm, beauty, activity, spirit and climate can not be adequately described. Pioneering in church work where one sees progress is also a joy. Friendships formed there mean much to us.

Art took some courses at Southern Methodist University, Sociology Department. I also attended S.M.U., earning 33 credits toward a Masters Degree in Education. I needed only one more course, for the M.A. but went to work at Taylor Publishing Company, to augment family income now that the children were growing up, with mounting expenses; continued working there six years.





Living in Florida and Texas in 1949; Tenting and "chuck wagon" eating in Colorado; Vacationing in 1951.

Irene started the fifth grade and John the seventh in Dallas, both of them graduating from Hillcrest High School. Living in Dallas and learning to know young people of all social levels,

was an education in itself. Attendance at numerous formal, semi-formal, novelty and informal parties was a part of Hillcrest High School life. Scholarship standards were very high, competition keen, with more than 95% of all graduates going on to college.

The Luther League at our Walnut Hill Lutheran Church became a very active organization of fine, high level young people who maintained almost 100% attendance at Bible class, Luther League meetings and the many educational and recreational functions sponsored, Dallas offering a great variety.

Art served with distinction in the Texas Conference, the Church at large, the local congregation and in civic life of the community.

Art accepted a call from Svea Lutheran Church, Svea, Minnesota, and started work here August 1, 1957. We find this church and community stable and progressive, friendly and responsive. A splendid new educational annex and a remodeled sanctuary has been built and dedicated since we came. Proximity to our parents and other relatives is a pleasant part of life here. The church helped us celebrate our Silver Wedding anniversary, June 22, 1958.

John, name meaning "Gift from God", an important part of our life at Hershey, was happy to welcome a sister and took his big-brother responsibility seriously. (Later, in high school, others were impressed by their good relationship and asked if they never quarreled.) Auntie Mick lived with us for a while in Oakland. John and Irene's most remembered childhood escapades, such as building flour-paste sidewalk from house to piano box playhouse and stuffing leaves in a gas tank, were in company with Prudy and Billy Sudman, children of the school superintendent. John raised rabbits, earning money for a bicycle.

In Iron Mountain, Michigan, they became acquainted with lakes, woods and winter fun; in Florida, the subtropics. John spent the summer when he was eleven with the Columbus Boy Choir School in camp at Lake Chautauqua, New York, having received a scholarship as the result of an audition conducted by director Hoffman.

John and Irene spent practically all the school years which they can remember in Dallas. We can mention only a few of their activities. Both of them made Select Choir at Hillcrest High School. John played clarinet in the band. Irene was a member of the Panaders, one of two high school drill teams selected to perform with the Texas Rangerettes and other college drill teams at governor's inauguration. Irene represented her school as F.T.A. sweetheart. She was known for her happy disposition and pleasing personality.

Both John and Irene held elective offices in various organizations at school, in Junior Achievement and in local, district and state Luther League. Both graduated with honors and each received two college scholarships based on scholastic achievement, character, leadership and service during high school. John was named outstanding boy in the class of 1955 for service to his school, recognized also for his friendliness.



Irene won a Dale Carnegie course, in speech competition; and a Patricia Stevens course, in fashion modeling competition. While attending Patricia Stevens classes she was offered employment in the Dallas office of Universal Films and worked there from the time of her graduation until her resignation to accompany her parents to Minnesota the last of July. The previous summer she earned her Red Cross Life Saver and Instructor certificates.

John attended international Luther League Conferences at Colorado Springs and at Boston. Following the latter he stayed with the Carl Nymans in Washington D.C., becoming acquainted with places and functions there.

John took his freshman year at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas, transferring to Gustavus Adolphus, where he was graduated in June, 1959. While at G.A. he worked for the Public Relations Department. He plans to continue schooling in that field at Boston University after working a while. He has earned some credits at Southern Methodist University while employed in Dallas. During vacations and after graduation he has worked for C. Wright Associates, Artcraft Printery, Eastman Kodak and Meisel Photochrome Corp., all in Dallas. He is with the latter at the time of this writing.

Irene is a Gustavus Adolphus College Junior Nursing student, currently at Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. She expects to receive a B.S. degree in 1961 and take State Board exams for her R.N. She enlisted in the U.S. Army Student Nurse Corps in August 1959. Upon graduation she will become a commissioned officer of the Army Nurse Corps, serving active duty the three succeeding years.

Art, Hilma, John and Irene have pleasant memories of many family activities, the earliest of which was the daily story hour, leading to the designation of a certain rocker as "the story book chair"; family fellowship in worship, in play and in planning; learning some simple songs and hymns; and visiting Grandparents, Uncles, Aunts and Cousins.

Some of the other activities and places visited are: trips including places of interest in many States, Mexico and Canada; gold panning; plane rides; boating; sponge fishing; tenting; house trailer travel and living; work projects; Bible Camps; relaxing, swimming, boating and salt water fishing at Port Alto, Texas, and in Florida; Margo Jones Theater in the Round and other legitimate stage playhouses; Museum of Science & Industry, Chicago, and other museums and zoos; miniature golfing; bowling; skating; agate hunting; beachcombing; horseback riding; hiking.

We appreciate our heritage, our family and all God's bountiful blessings. "In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thess. 5:18.







1 yr.



18 mo.



6 mo.

Irene



55



1941



'57







## ALVAR

This is the saga of the Walfrid Clan. Lower those raised eyebrows, relatives and friends, for even though there is a change of family name here it is absolutely "on the level." Mother Johnson, as she fondly looked upon her newborn son envisioned (as all mothers do) great accomplishments, and decided he should have three given names, i.e., Alvar Bernhard Walfrid—lest when he reached maturity he should lose his identity among the many Minnesota Johnsons! A seminary professor corroborated her farsightedness by suggesting the Johnson surname be dropped and Walfrid used as surname. Hence it is that the head of the Walfrid household refers to September 7th, 1931, as a red letter day in his life—when his name was legally changed, he enrolled in the seminary, and met LYDIA CHRISTIANSEN, now his wife of twenty-five years standing.

For the sentimentally minded we might say that Alvar was born at ten minutes to twelve midnight, November the 6th, according to the not so dependable clock in the farm home where he arrived. The seventh of November being his parents' wedding anniversary, it seems that someone should have turned that clock ahead eleven minutes and perhaps made his birthday more accurate as well as more interesting. For the romantically minded readers we might mention the dramatic meeting of Alvar and the girl who was to become his wife. Alvar was a janitor, working his way through school, in the boarding home where Lydia, secretary for the Minnesota Conference Board of Christian Service, was staying. For all practical purposes, "he just swept her off her feet." Those who knew Alvar's paternal grandmother will appreciate the fact that he took a chance when he brought his girl friend, Lydia, on a visit to his grandmother who was then living with her daughter, Ida, in Minneapolis. We have been told that Grandmother was very quick to ask, "Are you sure she is the right one for you?" Aunt Ida tried to cover up by telling her mother that they were merely friends and that there was "nothing decided." Alvar said later that he was afraid that Lydia would resent such serious talk so early in their courtship and that she had swept Cupid right out of his life—because if he didn't get Lydia he was sure that he wouldn't be interested in anyone else.

Alvar on Plum Creek bridge, 1913.







Above: At school district 22. Alvar is second from right. Left: Anton Magnell, Alvar and Dan Nordstrom in Plum Creek. Right: Love those knickers!

Before we go back to pick up the threads of history we should relate another episode in Alvar's life. At this time he was tall and very thin. He had recently purchased some riding type trousers which he used when he went pheasant hunting that fall. He was very proud of them, and when Lydia was coming for her first visit at the home of her betroth's parents, Alvar intended to wear those trousers when he drove into town to meet her at the R. R. station. His mother suggested that he wear something better, but he was sure they were fine. She tried telling him that he had more becoming trousers, with no greater success. Finally she said, "Alvar, you must not wear those pants; you look just like a stork and that's enough to scare the bravest girl!" Alvar changed his trousers to something less dramatic, without another word. Sisters who are making some of these insertions in the Walfrid story could add many more, but we must get back to our history.

Alvar had graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College, with a Bachelor of Arts degree, in 1930, had stayed out of school and served congregations at Rock Creek, Pine Grove, and West Rock the following year, and then studied at Luther Theological Seminary, St. Paul, during the 1931-32 term. In 1932 he transferred to Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, from which he received his B. D. in 1934.

At this point we might look farther back into Alvar's history and say that he completed high school at Walnut Grove, Minnesota, when he was sixteen (due to skipping grades. See Elmer Magnell's write-up for one of these experiences.), following which he and Elmer Nelson farmed for two years, batching it, on the old Hakaan Nelson place which Carl Johnson had purchased. This is the same farm which Alvar bought from his father in 1942. Alvar had been working with his father on the home farm whenever he wasn't in school, doing field work from the time he was nine years old. However, he says that those two years were a training period for him, in financial management, the meaning of good credit and in appreciation of women as homemakers. It was during those years that he had his first bout with ptomaine poisoning and developed a sensitivity to slightly off quality food.

When he started farming, Alvar attended an auction sale to buy some needed equipment. He stood in line to make arrangement with the clerk of the sale for credit. In line ahead of him he saw some farmers whom he considered well established being refused credit. At that point he nearly stepped out of the line, but decided to try anyway. When he, a timid 16 year old boy, asked for credit to buy







some equipment, the clerk looked at him as if valuable time were being wasted. Alvar had given his name, but he was unknown to the man at the desk. Just then the bank president who stood by said, "Oh, sure, that's Carl Johnson's son. Let him buy what he needs." Alvar says he shall never forget how glad he was to be the son of Carl Johnson, a man who had a reputation for taking his obligations seriously. He determined that he too should pass on to any children he might have the realization that good credit is a sacred trust which must never be violated.

Alvar too is known as a good financial manager, in church affairs and elsewhere. At present he serves as secretary of the Minnesota Conference Budget Committee, and his opinion is highly respected. He is sometimes referred to as "Mr. Budget". He is chairman of the Minneapolis area Bible Camp Committee which is launching out on a big building program calling for good financial management.

But Alvar learned more than financial responsibility during those years on the farm. To this day he never even jokes about women having an easy time of it. Far be it from him to ever think or say that a man could keep house or cook as well as a woman. Lydia is a good helpmeet to him and he knows and appreciates it.

We continue our narrative by quoting from a story written by Lydia.

"Alvar was ordained into the Holy Ministry on June 10, 1934, and the following Thursday, June 14th, a marriage took place, which after twenty-five years duration we can truthfully say is the best thing that has happened to us. Our first home was at Holmes City, a three-church parish. As parson and wife we were beginners among these people, for three years. During that period, FAITH AND LOIS came to gladden our home. Alvar introduced preaching in the English language in two of the churches in this parish, where all had been Swedish before. After hearing his Swedish sermons for awhile it was unanimously decided that they *could* understand sermons in the language of the land.

"Our move to Anoka in September, 1937, began a lively term of service in that fair city. RUTH was born during our stay here, so now we numbered five around our family table. A devastating tornado demolished many homes in 1939, and Alvar was appointed by the Red Cross as a community representative to distribute funds to stricken families.

"A call from the Elim church at Scandia in 1940 was accepted, much to the enjoyment of our three "little women", for wasn't that spacious parsonage lawn just the thing for childhood's wildest dreams of games of every description!

"While ours and dozens of other children played blissfully on the lawn, World War II with all its horror physically, mentally and spiritually was being fought and much Nazi propaganda filtered through the ranks of American soldiers. To counteract this the Office of War Information decided to film a movie of Swedish church life in America, including our Julotta service, Ladies' Aid, and family life in the parsonage. Ingrid Bergman was imported to lend color to our surroundings, and for days our parish resembled a Hollywood set—but the crowning point of it all came when our boys overseas saw the film and recognized loved ones in their beloved home church—thus realizing that the Nazi propaganda about the breakup of homeland churches was erroneous.







"Two more precious faces appeared around our family table during this six year period, namely HOPE AND JAMES. Faith, Lois and Ruth started school in this community, and Faith had the unique experience of skipping fourth grade. Alvar served on numerous District and Conference Boards. One little girl in Scandia, much troubled, asked her mother if Pastor Walfrid didn't like Lois and Ruth for he only talked about Faith and Hope in his sermons! In preparation for a visit to the Walfrids, a mother informed her small daughter about the unique names in that household, including Faith, Hope, and Peace. Upon return home from her visit, the child very aptly told her mother, "There is no Peace in *that* family!"

"Our move to Gowrie, Iowa, in 1946, heralded another interesting period of service, during which time Alvar, besides parish duties, was drafted to become Campaign Director for the Iowa Conference Home for the Aged appeal. A fire completely destroyed the Home for the Aged at Madrid, and called for immediate action. In a year's time a new home was erected. Alvar was also elected vice president of the Iowa Conference.

"Having had numerous calls and inquires from churches in the Minneapolis area during our Gowrie stay, it became evident that for some reason God must want us back in Minnesota. Consequently, upon a call to Calvary Church, Minneapolis, we found ourselves in August of 1951 back in "home territory." The work of this parish has been very strenuous, but rewarding. A splendid new educational building was erected during 1953-54, and many interesting episodes have punctuated Alvar's ministry here.

"Alvar was featured as a Town Topper in 1957, and gained national recognition through Guideposts magazine in 1959 for "initiative in fostering a teenage car club." He was also featured in Popular Mechanics for building a collapsible house trailer—one which has given us as a family many miles of vacation travel enjoyment. The entire family enjoys camping and we have seen many areas of our country with the aid of this trailer.

"Present source of relaxation is Walfrids' Woodcrest, a do-it-yourself cottage at Big Marine Lake near Scandia." The Walfrid children have followed their father's example in swimming enjoyment and in securing Red Cross Swimmers and Life Saver certificates. Lydia prefers to relax with her crocheting on their cabin lawn while the others swim. All enjoy working to put and keep the place in good condition. Lydia's pride are the beautiful cabinets built and installed by her father, an expert cabinet maker.

"All of the children play the piano, Faith and Lois the pipe organ, Ruth the flute, Hope the violin and James the cornet. Faith and Lois graduated from Minnehaha Academy with honors. During this period James skipped part of the sixth and seventh grades, and still keeps his parents hopping. He reads a great



<b>A Budget 1959</b> <b>\$925,316</b> 28.1% 1958	<b>B Budget 1959</b> <b>\$1,077,915</b> 49.2% 1958
Increases ADMINISTRATION G.A. COLLEGE CHRISTIAN SERVICE AUGUSTANA CHURCH	<b>Budget</b> <b>\$1,159,095</b> 20.5% 1958





### Walfrid's Woodcrest

deal, is an avid archery fan, and enjoys camping and building car and plane models. He has attended Bryant Junior High School and will be a 10th grader at Roosevelt during 1959-60."

Faith and Lois both graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with honors, Faith in 1956 and Lois in 1958. Faith earned her B.S. in Elementary Education and taught second grade at Hutchinson, Minnesota, before her marriage to CARL LINDELL, JR. on October 4, 1957. Carl studied at Augsburg College one year and then graduated from the University of Minnesota with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering degree in 1956. He worked as an engineer with Boeing Aircraft in Seattle 1956-58, receiving several fine promotions. In September, 1958 he resigned that position to enter Northwestern Lutheran Theological Seminary, where he is now preparing for the Ministry. He is doing part time work with his father as an electrician for the Lindell Electric Co., Minneapolis. Faith is now teaching 2nd grade at Richfield, Minnesota.

Carl and Faith love camping and traveling. Their first year of marriage, living in Seattle, was one long honeymoon. Every week-end a different area of Seattle or surrounding territory was explored. Different methods were employed—from boat trips, skiing, hiking to bicycling, swimming and transportation by car. They are now somewhat familiar with the many scenic spots and other points of interest in that area. Both Carl and Faith have sung in church choirs for a number of years. Carl, as well as Faith, plays the piano. As part of his Seminary training he served as field student at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.







"Going away." Left to right: Lydia, Alvar, Faith and Carl. "Reception Musicians", left to right: Ruth, Hope, Lois.

LOIS earned her B.A. degree in Secondary Education with a major in English and a minor in Library Science. She taught at Wayzata High School during the 1958-59 term. On June 26, 1959 she married ROY A. JOHNSON, formerly of Milwaukee and now a sixth grade teacher at Clinton school in Minneapolis.

Roy earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and his master's from the University of Minnesota. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Johnson and a brother-in-law of Dean Wilson Fagerberg of the Lutheran Bible Institute. Roy is a valuable member of the Calvary Lutheran Church choir, having an excellent voice for group and solo work.

By marriage, Lois acquired a daughter, Gail, whose mother passed away some years ago. Lois is now busily and happily engaged as a full time homemaker. Both she and Roy, as well as Gail, enjoy the recreational activities at Walfrid's Woodcrest. Lois is of an artistic and poetic nature. We share here her poem which won first place in a poetry contest sponsored by the publication PROSPECTUS when Lois was a senior at G.A. college. This poem also appeared in the MOC-CASIN, published by the Minnesota League of Poets.

Right: Lois, Roy and Gail. Far right: Lois with her mother, Lydia.







Lois' bridesmaids admire the bride. Right: Wilson Fagerberg watches Alvar welcome Roy into the family.

## AUTUMN

by Lois Walfrid

I walked tonight  
And the wind tossed and tangled my hair,  
Tugged at my skirts, and pushed me forward,  
Through intermittant drops of rain which touched  
My face and arms and gently bathed  
The dusty path, the blades of grass, the falling leaves—  
And from the wind and rain evolved the thought  
Of majesty and life and wild power  
And gentleness that sighed and softly breathed.

Both Faith and Lois worked as teletype operators for the United States Government during the summer months during the years that they attended college. These were civil service positions.

RUTH worked at Bethesda Hospital, St. Paul, during vacations from school, until she was enrolled in the Gustavus Adolphus College degree Nursing program, now taking her time around the calendar. She is now a member of the U. S. Army Student Nurse Corps and upon her graduation in 1960 will become a commissioned officer of the Army Nurse Corps, going into active duty for the two following years.

HOPE has received numerous honors during her high school years, in dramatics, music, scholarship and leadership. She is now a senior at Roosevelt High School and is looking forward to college next fall. Hope has worked at the Augustana Home for the Aged and in the Diet Kitchen of Northwestern Hospital during vacations from school.

We close the Walfrid saga with another quote from Lydia's story:

"Life has been worthwhile and truly a wonderful experience of God's faithfulness and grace. We think of His promises in Scripture, and have found Proverbs 3:5-6 basic in seeking to live the Christian life, 'Trust in the Lord with all thy heart, and lean not upon thine own understanding: In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths.'"





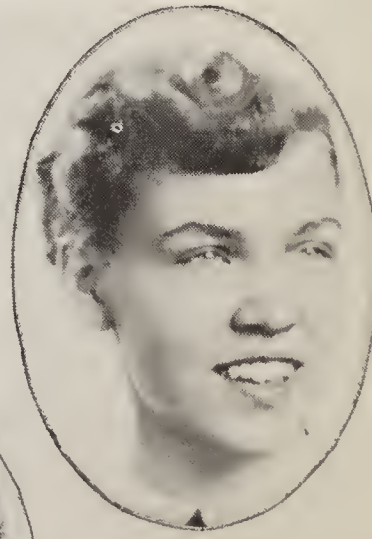


1. In Anoka, Ruth the baby.
2. In Scandia, Hope the youngest.
3. Family worship hour.
4. In Scandia, James the baby.
5. Hope, kindergarten.
6. James, first grade.
7. In Gowrie.

Below: In Minneapolis



*Faith*



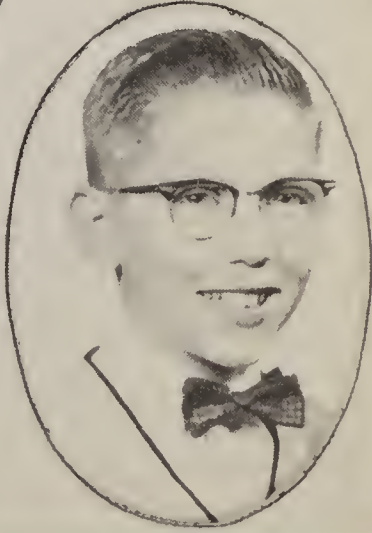
*Lous*



*Ruth*



*Hope*



*James*



[illegible]





Anna





*Anna Nordstrom*



## ANNA

Anna Theresa, the second child, first daughter, of Jöns and Karolina Ingemansson, was born at Väckelsång, Smaland, November 7, 1876. When she was two and a half years old the family moved to Österslöv församling, near Kristianstad, Skåne.

Anna's early home life has been described in the account of her parents. Her mother had a tendency to regard sons as a greater Divine blessing than daughters, which may have helped Anna develop the ability to look out for herself. It seems that she was not afraid of the stone-throwing cousins who lived in one of the "torpare" row houses which were located between the Ingemanssons' and the pasture to which the children had to go to milk the cow. It is an interesting sidelight that many years later a young man lost out on a chance to come to America because his father or grandfather had thrown stones at his cousins.

After her confirmation, Anna went to Kristianstad where she found employment at a small garment shop or factory which made dresses and coats. This shop, operated by Einar Lundgren, employed fifteen girls, some operating the two large sewing machines while others laid out and did miscellaneous tasks. She did well there and was reluctant to leave for America when her folks decided to emigrate. However, family ties were strong and she did not consider staying in Sweden when the others left. She realized that it was important for her parents to join their son Carl in America, recalling that after he left home their mother was so lonesome for him that she spent much of her time weeping. Once Anna said that mother cried "så hon skrek."

Mother (Ingemansson) Johnson tells us that a young Swede by the name of Nils, surname unknown, fell in love with Anna at first sight while all were on the boat enroute to America. Mother's comment that she told the young man that he could not have Anna because she was needed to help them become established in a new country might indicate a special regard for Anna's ability and perhaps a special love for her.

A photo of Anna at age 19, the year she came to America, shows her as a statuesque, attractive young woman. A search has been made, without success, for one of these pictures. If one is found in the future, we hope it will be forwarded to the editor of this book for making a copy negative. Before Anna's arrival from Sweden her brother, Carl, had arranged for her to work at the Dennis Daley home. Later she worked for Alfred Swoffers, remaining there until her marriage in 1897, at age 20.

Anna recalls that Eleck Nelson met them coming into Walnut Grove on the 4:10 P.M. train upon their arrival from Sweden. He brought them first to his own home, where Mrs. Nelson served a bountiful meal even though she did not know exactly which day the immigrants would arrive. Carl had made arrangements with Eleck to meet the train each day during the week that they might come. Mrs. Nelson did not have the benefit of a deepfreeze for emergency supplies. Anna says, "I remember we had raisin sauce that first evening. It was very good. Also, Mrs. Nelson gave me a hat so that I needn't go out with my Swedish head scarf. She was a wonderful woman." Mrs. Nelson's granddaughter, Grace, is now Anna's daughter-in-law.



In 1887 Nils and his brother, Axel, decided to emigrate from Sweden to America. Their father's sister, Hanna, had written from Walnut Grove, Minnesota, that land was so cheap that it was possible for the average laborer to pay for a quarter section without too much difficulty. Life in Sweden was pleasant in many ways, and it was home, but there was very little opportunity for betterment of one's lot in those days. Very little land was for sale and prices were high compared with returns for labor.

Nils, who was industrious and thrifty, had saved enough money to buy his ticket to America. Brother Axel, more fun loving (the family called him a "spinort" in Swedish) did not have enough for his ticket, but the parents gave him assistance and blessed both boys on their decision to sail for America. It was a comfort that their sons could travel together and could go to the home of "Faster" (Aunt Hannah) who would help them find work and offer a home between jobs. Nels, as he became known in America, and which spelling we shall use with reference to him in this country, went to the Lars Truedson farm for his first position, as arranged by his aunt. He "worked out" through the following year, then started farming for himself, first for one year on a rented place near Grundens in Gales township and then on a farm which he purchased in North Hero.

Lars Truedson had bought 160 acres and reportedly paid for it in full from the first year's crop. That influenced Nels to go into debt for equipment, even though horses were very high. With wheat selling at \$1 a bushel it seemed a wise chance to take, though Nels had to pay \$175 for his first horses. Unfortunately, a depression hit and wheat dropped to 40 cents when Nels had some to sell. It was not easy to pay for his horses and machinery and make farm payments (there were no long term loans in those days), but Nels managed by continuing to do day work for neighbors to supplement his farm income.

Nels also managed to send a ticket to his sister, Mathilda, who came from Sweden in 1892 to help him. The two of them made their home in the granery until a small house was completed. Mathilda helped with field work as well as household duties. Sometimes she helped neighbors when their babies arrived, when they did annual housecleaning or during slack winter months. At those times Nels "batched." Location of this farm, Nels' first, can be seen on the Early Settlers map in this book.

Nels was six feet tall, of excellent build, had wavy brown hair, true blue eyes and a healthy, clear complexion. He was a handsome man who could turn many a lass' head, but didn't show much interest in women. Mrs. Truedson, who was interested in the welfare of the early settlers in that area, told Nels that he ought to find himself a wife, and sometimes secured other employment for Mathilda, thinking that Nels would tire of batching and begin to show more interest in the eligible girls. Mrs. Truedson did not promote any special girl, but spoke for a principle.

It was the Nordstroms' cousin, Nellie, and her husband, John Nelson, who played Cupid successfully. The John I. Johnsons and four children had arrived from John Nelson's home community in Sweden and settled with their son, Carl, on the farm to the south of Nelsons. Their elder daughter, Anna, was an attractive young woman who might be a good helpmeet for Nels Nordstrom.

A Sunday dinner was arranged to which all of the Johnsons were invited in addition to Nels and Mathilda Nordstrom. After a pleasant afternoon together, Nels took Anna to Daleys', not far from his own farm, where she was then employed. Later, he came back to get his sister, Mathilda, and return to their place. Had not Cupid shot some of his arrows that summer day Nels would have taken both Anna and Mathilda at the same time, leaving the former off on the way home. Those extra miles are nothing now, but in the horse and buggy days they meant a good deal of driving time, and then milking the cows by kerosene lantern light.



Following this day at the Nelson home, Cupid received ample assistance from Anna's mother, who became known for her match-making interests with a practical slant.

The following February twenty-sixth, year 1897, Nels and Anna were married at Nels' farm home. Mathilda had worked hard to prepare a special wedding dinner that day. It would be her last meal as Nels' housekeeper and it must be good, to show her esteem for her brother. Mathilda and Nels had been almost strangers when she arrived there five years earlier, but she had learned to respect and admire his fine Christian character, a blending of practicality, refinement and industry. Most of all, she appreciated the kindness and consideration he had shown her. Probably Nels occupied an especially warm place in Mathilda's heart because she knew him better than other members of his family did.

Mathilda passed this tender feeling on to her children, and they always regretted that his deafness made it almost impossible for them to visit with him and let him know how they felt. An outstanding memory regarding Uncle Nels is that of his well kept tool house. In fact, all his equipment was well organized and well cared for. Nieces and nephews enjoyed to visit at the Nels Nordstrom farm, to play in the barn where they could see the little calves, and to drink from that wonderful flowing well which never needed a pump and didn't go dry. But they had learned that one place was "holy ground" into which they could look with admiration, but into which they must not enter—Uncle Nels' tool shop.

But we must return to our account of Nels and Anna's wedding day in 1897.

Anna had been working at the Swoffer home in Walnut Grove and came directly from there. The pastor of the Lutheran church, located north of Walnut Grove, lived in Tracy and came out with his own team and sled. Mr. and Mrs. John I. Johnson, Carl and Ida were in attendance that day, as was Olof Nordstrom, who was then employed at the Dennis Daley farm.

Olof and Mathilda were to have been witnesses, to have "stood up" with the bridal couple. Olof was not excused from his work on time and, in spite of all his hurrying, did not arrive at the appointed hour. Carl Johnson, the bride's brother, was present and took Olof's place.

Perhaps Cupid had something to do with this arrangement, one of several occasions when Carl Johnson and Mathilda Nordstrom had a common experience. Just after the vows were spoken and the blessing pronounced, Olof came walking from Daley's, across the snow covered field.

After her marriage, Anna joined Nels in working hard and planning well in the face of common pioneer hardships, including a very small house and lack of modern conveniences. Some of her nieces and nephews remember with pleasure that good fresh fruit salad, Swedish style brown beans and rich chocolate cake which Aunt Anna served for company meals. Thanks.

Nels Nordstrom secured his final U.S. citizenship papers at Redwood Falls in 1898. He and Carl Johnson drove with team and buggy from Walnut Grove to Redwood Falls the day previous to their appointment, rented a place for their team at the local livery stable and a room for themselves at the hotel. The next morning, at 9:00 A.M., they appeared in court and became citizens of "their country by choice", a citizenship which they deeply appreciated. Nels' wife, Anna, also became a U.S. citizen by virtue of her husband's citizenship, in accordance with law of that time.

Nels had sold his 80 acre farm, with house and barn, for \$50 an acre, and bought another 80 near Herman, Minnesota. Anna was young and Herman seemed very far away. Unable to venture that far from all her people, she chose not to move up there. Later, she commented that Lena and her family found it a good place and that if they had gone there earlier it could also have proved a good place for her and Nels too.

But, the farm at Herman was sold without a loss and, in 1902, 160 acres a mile and a half northeast of Walnut Grove was purchased and became the Nels Nordstrom home place. Anna tells us that Nels was not ambitious for much land,





and would have preferred a good 80 acres, comparatively larger in the days of horsedrawn equipment than it would be now. However, the 160 has served, and is serving, the family well.

Anna says of Nels, "He liked people and he liked to read. He took two Swedish weeklies published in Minneapolis, had some books, though not many were available, and some American papers." He learned to read and spell English largely from these English language papers.

Nels began to lose his hearing gradually only a few years after marriage. This proved a great handicap for a man so interested in visiting with people and tended to restrict his social contacts as the hearing loss became severe, and forced him into the lonesome world of the deaf. As the world of sound closed to Nels, the world of print opened increasingly.

The Nels Nordstroms were active members of the Augustana Lutheran church, now known as Trinity, in which their children were baptized and confirmed.

Two sons and a daughter were born to Nels and Anna; namely, Edwin Richard, Ella Maria and Victor William.

Nels suffered with a duodenal ulcer and chronic myocarditis for many years before other complications caused his death, at age 84, May 23, 1949. He was buried in the village cemetery west from Walnut Grove. He had retired from active farming at age 72.

Anna has been an invalid for some time, being cared for at first by her daughter, Ella, and then, the past four years, by her son and daughter-in-law, Edwin and Marie. At this writing she is with the latter at the old farm home near Walnut Grove. Anna Nordstrom passed away March 6, 1960.

Nels and Anna  
Nordstrom  
at their  
Golden  
Wedding  
Anniversary,  
February 26, 1947.







## EDWIN

EDWIN RICHARD, born January 25, 1899, inheriting height from both sides of the family, reached six foot four. He has hazel brown eyes and dark brown hair.

Edwin's baptismal sponsors were his Uncle Carl and Aunt Mathilda. He was confirmed in what is now Trinity Lutheran Church and has always been interested in church activities, having held several offices in various organizations. He has served as Trustee and as Treasurer, and is at present serving as Deacon.

Edwin spent most of his early life assisting his parents in the farm work and has farmed since he completed his schooling in the Walnut Grove public school. He has continued his education by reading, being particularly interested in non-fiction. He enjoys picture taking, being the first in the relationship to purchase and operate a camera. Some interesting early family pictures would have been non-existent had it not been for him.

On September 25, 1930, he was married to MARIE CLINE, a former Tracy girl. She was born at Eagle Grove, Iowa, graduated from Tracy High School and attended Mankato Commercial College, after which she worked in a bank at Wessington, South Dakota. Marie has dark brown hair, brown eyes and is five feet, four and a half inches tall.



Above: September, 1933  
Right: Marie Cline  
Left: Edwin and Marie at  
time of their marriage.



Marie enjoys the distinction of heterogeneous ancestry. Her Grandma Cline was English; Grandpa Cline, German and Irish; Grandma Eaton, Norwegian; Grandpa Eaton, Scotch and Irish. Some of the latter's people lived in Kentucky and Missouri in the early days and later in Indiana and in Iowa. Great-Grandpa Eaton was a Maxwell—Scottish, of course.

Since her marriage, Marie has been an active member of Trinity Lutheran Church at Walnut Grove, having held several positions in auxiliaries. At present she is serving as vice president of the Ladies Aid and has just been elected temporary chairman of the Augustana Lutheran Churchwomen at Walnut Grove, being organized to replace the Ladies' Aid and the Women's Missionary Society.

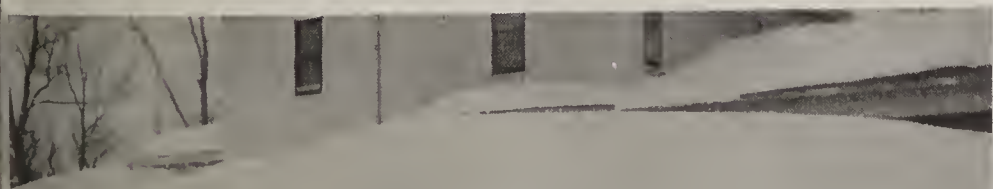
Marie sews, enjoys flowers and working with them and likes TV. She loves people and enjoys social activities with her many friends. Edwin and Marie share their keenest interest—their daughter and son-in-law. Marie helps Edwin with field work when power machinery requires more than operator. She has raised large numbers of chickens.

We have heard Edwin referred to as "Doc Nordstrom" and Edwin and Marie as "Doctors Ed and Marie." This designation was earned by their experience of delivering a baby during the Great Snow of February, 1936. They were living in the former Grandpa Johnson home on the Carl Johnson farm when a neighbor came for help because it was impossible for the doctor to get out from Walnut Grove.

Leaving baby Janice with Aunt Mathilda and taking their copy of "Infant Care," containing a chapter on emergency delivery, edited and published by the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor, Edwin and Marie set off across the fields. It wasn't possible to find the road, and even the fences were completely covered with snow. Walking was extremely difficult because the snow was very deep and still too soft to bear their weight, with the result that they had to push themselves, rather than walk, through the snow. Later Marie confessed that when they were about half way out she doubted that they could ever make it, and realized that it would be equally impossible to return home.

Both Edwin and Marie were almost exhausted when they finally reached the neighbor's house more than a half mile from their own, but there was time for only a brief rest. After assisting the young husband get whatever equipment they could ready, Edwin read the directions from "Infant Care" and Marie followed them step by step. The next day when a snow plow opened the road from Walnut Grove and brought a doctor it was found that "Doctors Edwin and Marie" had done an excellent job in the face of great odds.

Below, left: Carl Johnson's house as seen from the barn.  
Right: Edwin and Carl digging out the machine shed and garage, February, 1936.







Above: Janice, age eight. Above right: Marie, Edwin, Janice, Mrs. Cline, Robert, Lucille, Jeanie.  
Left: Janice at time of her confirmation.

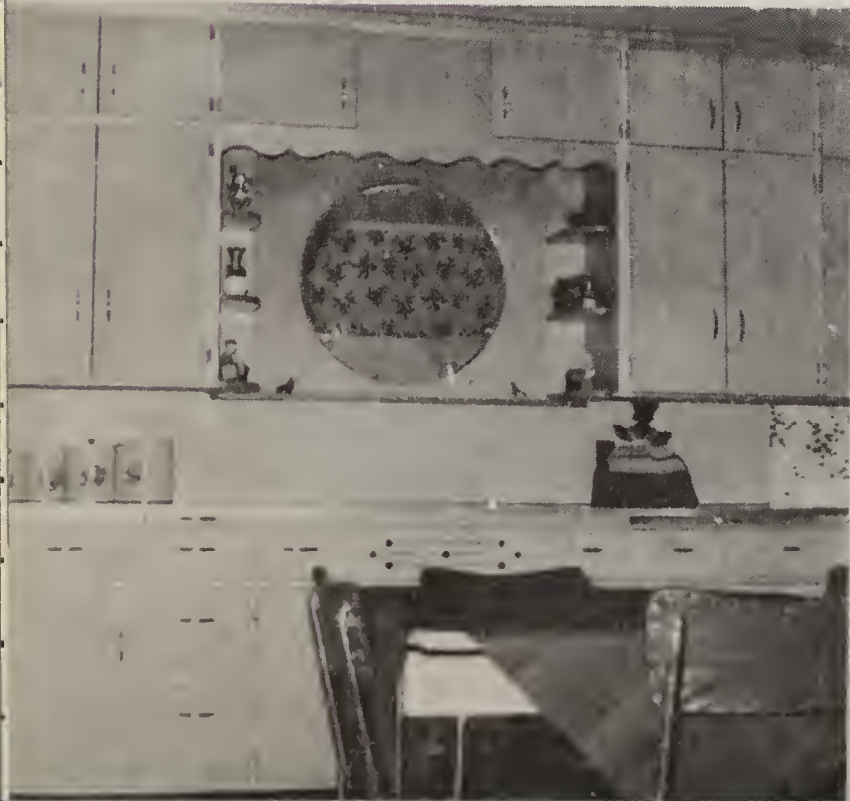
Two daughters were born to Edwin and Marie. JANICE was born May 29, 1934. CAROL JOANNE was born prematurely and passed away shortly after birth, October 25, 1944.

Janice attended school in Walnut Grove and graduated from high school in 1952. She attended Mankato Teachers College for three years, after which she spent a year working at Augustana Lutheran Synodical Headquarters in Minneapolis. During her high school years she took an active interest in various activities, especially music. She served as organist in Trinity Lutheran Church during her high school days and whenever she was in Walnut Grove after that.

On February 23, 1957, Janice was married to JAMES CARTER, who was born at Walnut Grove September 22, 1926, and was graduated from Walnut Grove High School. They live on a well-improved farm 4½ miles southwest of Walnut Grove.

When James is not busy with farming and cattle feeding he occupies himself with gardening, carpenter work and building, do-it-yourself projects, hunting or fishing. He is secretary of Holly Farmers' Co-op company. Both James and Janice are active members of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Janice keeps busy with homemaking, church, Twentieth Century Club, Extension Club and interest in sports, growing flowers, various types of art, singing and playing piano and organ. She is church organist at present.







Janice and James Carter, February 23, 1957.



Janice with Mother, Marie.

Lillian and James Dale with attendants, August 31, 1957.





## ELLA

Ella Marie Nordstrom was born January 4, 1902 at Walnut Grove, Minnesota. She graduated from the Walnut Grove High School in 1920. In June 1922 she graduated from the Mankato State Teachers College, having taken the two year course for primary teachers.

She taught third and fourth grades at Lynd, Minnesota. Here she met HELMER DALE. They were married Dec. 4, 1925. They lived on the farm at Lynd until 1934.



1. Ella; 2. Helmer and Ella; 3. Ardys; 4. Jim.

In 1934 the Dales sold their farm to the National Park Service. It was taken over by a large group of C.C.C. veterans of World War I. They worked it into what is now Camden State Park. The Dale house was located a block from what is now the swimming pool.

Helmer quit farming and was given a job by the Park Service as a foreman for the work crews. Having completed the park work the C.C.C. camp moved to Fort Ridgely at Fairfax, Minnesota. The Dales moved with them and lived in Fairfax three years. Then they moved to Carlton, Minnesota where Helmer continued to work as a foreman at Jay Cooke State Park.

At the beginning of the war the Dales moved back to Lynd where they had purchased a small farm. Here they still reside.

Ella is 5 ft. 7 inches tall, has hazel eyes and had medium to dark brown hair. She enjoys group Bible study and the ladies literary club. Her special activity is raising chickens and selling eggs to the store, and to customers who come out to the farm.

Helmer is 5 ft. 11½ inches tall, had light brown curly hair, blue eyes. He is Lynd Township assessor, last year helped with the Red Cross drive, also served on Committees for the Blood Bank and Food for overseas drive. He sells seed corn to the neighboring farmers, enjoys visiting with other farmers and is a very, very strict Democrat.

Helmer and Ella are the parents of two children: Ardis Ann, born March 30, 1931, James Helmer, born February 23, 1938.





1. Jim with his dog; 2. Jim, Helmer, Ella, Ardys; 3. Ella, Helmer. 1958.

ARDIS ANN attended schools in Fairfax, Carlton and Lynd. She graduated from Lynd High School in 1949. She graduated from Minneapolis Business College the following year. During High School she took a correspondence course in Commercial Art from Art Instruction, Inc. Minneapolis. She received her diploma from them in 1950. She is accomplished at designing and making all her own clothes. She also sews almost all her mother's dresses.

Ardis worked for the Mutual Service Finance Company in Minneapolis until she married EDWARD SHOURDS June 2, 1951. Their son, Richard Scott—better known as Ricky—was born September 6, 1952.

They live in Marshall where Edward works for Super Valu store.

They are members of the First English Lutheran Church in Marshall.

Both Ardis and Eddie like to play tennis, attend church meetings, swim and ice skate. They enjoy vacation trips, having visited several states and taken many slide pictures of scenery they saw. In fact, amateur photography is a hobby of theirs.

Ardys, Eddie and Ricky, 1958.







Left: Lillian, James and Michael, August, 1958.  
Right: Michael, 1959.

JAMES HELMER DALE attended Lynd school and was graduated in 1956. In August 1957 he married his childhood sweet heart, LILLIAN SERREYN. She also graduated from Lynd High School in 1956. Their son, Michael James, was born July 3, 1958. They live in Marshall about a block from Ardis.

James, who prefers to be called "Jim" works at Cattoors Oil Station in Marshall. But he has one ambition, and only one, and that is to be a farmer whenever the opportunity presents itself. During the summers when other boys were playing baseball he would be plowing and cultivating the soil—occupations he enjoyed more than anything else.

Lillian enjoys the homemaking activities which keep her busy, her church and her friends. She likes to crochet during leisure time. Both Jim and Lillian like to ice skate, swim, bowl (but not much time for this) and picnic. Jim also likes to hunt. They are active members of First English Lutheran Church in Marshall.

Almost every Sunday afternoon the two families come out to see "the folks"—Helmer and Ella.

"Jimmy's early childhood was plagued by wartime shortages, shortages of wagons, tricycles, candy and such.

"One Easter Sunday when he was five years old we had just left the yard on our way to early sunrise services at the church. A rabbit ran across the road in front of our car. 'Is that the Easter Bunny?' asked Jimmy.

" 'Yes', I answered.

"He didn't say any more, but on our return home, he ran into the house and looked around. Soon he came out again saying, 'The Easter Bunny didn't leave me an Easter Basket, then what was he doing around here?' "

—Ella Nordstrom Dale



## SUMMER—1915

During my childhood it was the custom for children to attend all day sessions of Bible school, lasting six weeks.

One summer when I was about thirteen years old and Victor was eleven, Victor and I drove our horse Sam a distance of about four miles to Bible school that was held in a Country School. Sam was black with a white face. I was secretly a little disappointed in him because he couldn't shake hands like Esther and Hilma's horse could. Our carriage was a one seated top buggy. Along the way we usually picked up Oscar and George Anderson, Esther and Hilma Johnson. Also quite often Victor and Viola Nelson if we happened to meet them on the road. This would have been a traffic hazard, but we didn't have to worry about traffic. About all Sam was afraid of was one of those new fangled horseless carriages and luckily we didn't meet even one the entire six weeks.

At school the classes were all conducted in Swedish by a neighbor girl, Anna Bergblom. Our drinking water was from a pail with a dipper.

Each noon the boys took Sam over across the road to drink from farmer Jackson's tank. One day an irate Mrs. Jackson came out of the house and told us that Sam couldn't drink there any more. After that, they had to take him about half a mile to Alfred Nelson's place.

Those days many farmers kept hives of bees. These bees would "swarm" and fly across country to a new landing place. One afternoon as we were returning from school we were horrified to see a big swarm of bees flying directly toward us. We threw ourselves on the ground and placed our coats over us. Sam didn't have any protection but luckily the bees by passed us.

The last day of school we had a program to which the mothers were invited. I played an organ solo, the first and last time I ever played in public.

—Ella Nordstrom Dale



Left to right, back row: Ella Nordstrom, Esther Johnson, Chester Anderson, Miss Bergblom. Second row: Oscar Anderson, Clarence Munson, Annette Anderson, Victor Nelson, Victor Nordstrom. Front row: Alvar Johnson, George Anderson, Viola Nelson, Lee Lindberg.





## VICTOR



VICTOR WILLIAM, the youngest of the Nels and Anna Nordstrom children, married GRACE NELSON, granddaughter of the Eleck Nelsons, in whose home Victor's grandparents and family were guests their first day in Walnut Grove.

Grace was born at Walnut Grove, where she also received her elementary and high school education. She took a course at the Tracy Normal School and later completed the requirements for her Minnesota elementary teachers' certificate at Mankato State Teachers College. She taught school until her marriage in 1939. Two years ago, in addition to homemaking duties, she resumed teaching—second grade in the Walnut Grove public school.

Victor also attended the Walnut Grove public school and, after farming with his father for a while, completed a course at a Minneapolis barber college. He worked as a barber, in Walnut Grove and in Minneapolis, from 1924 until 1936. Since 1936 he has farmed on the home place, living with his folks the first three years and then building his own house to the east of the old farm home at the time of his marriage. He has been A. S. C. Farm Stored Grain Inspector since 1954.

Victor and Grace place their home and family as first interest, around which their activities revolve. Both enjoy reading and are interested in athletics—baseball, basketball, and football. They are members of the PTA and of the Methodist church in Walnut Grove, the church in which Grace was brought up. Grace is also a member of the W.S.C.S. of the church.

Grace's father was of Norwegian descent and her mother of German descent. Both Grace and Victor have dark brown hair. Grace has blue eyes; Victor, brown. All the children have brown eyes and are tall, as are their parents.



Left: Four generations, left to right: Grace Nordstrom, Bertha Nelson Riley, Mrs. Albin Klucking. On chair, Bill Nordstrom.

Right: Shearing time.  
Below: Bruce.







Above: Karen. Left: Victor & Grace with family. Right: Bruce, Karen, Bill. Below: Bill, Bruce, Karen.

WILLIAM (BILL) ROY was graduated from Walnut Grove High School in June of 1958, and is now a sophomore at Gustavus Adolphus College. BRUCE ALAN is now a high school senior. He enjoys hunting. Both of the boys like to read and are excellent athletes, playing on their school baseball, basketball and football teams.

Bill made the basketball and baseball first teams at college during his freshman year, and has received recognition for outstanding playing. He is well liked among students on the campus, by teachers in the classroom and by personnel at the college cafeteria, where he works to help pay for his education. He made the National Honor Society in high school and continues as a good student in college. Bill holds the record for the highest number of points scored by any Walnut Grove High School basketball player.

A businessman in Walnut Grove who was bragging about Bill recently said that he is a fine all around boy, that he is able and dependable in a variety of fields, not merely athletics, citing an instance where it was desired to have a young man read Scripture and lead in prayer at a public function. Bill was their first choice and did very well.

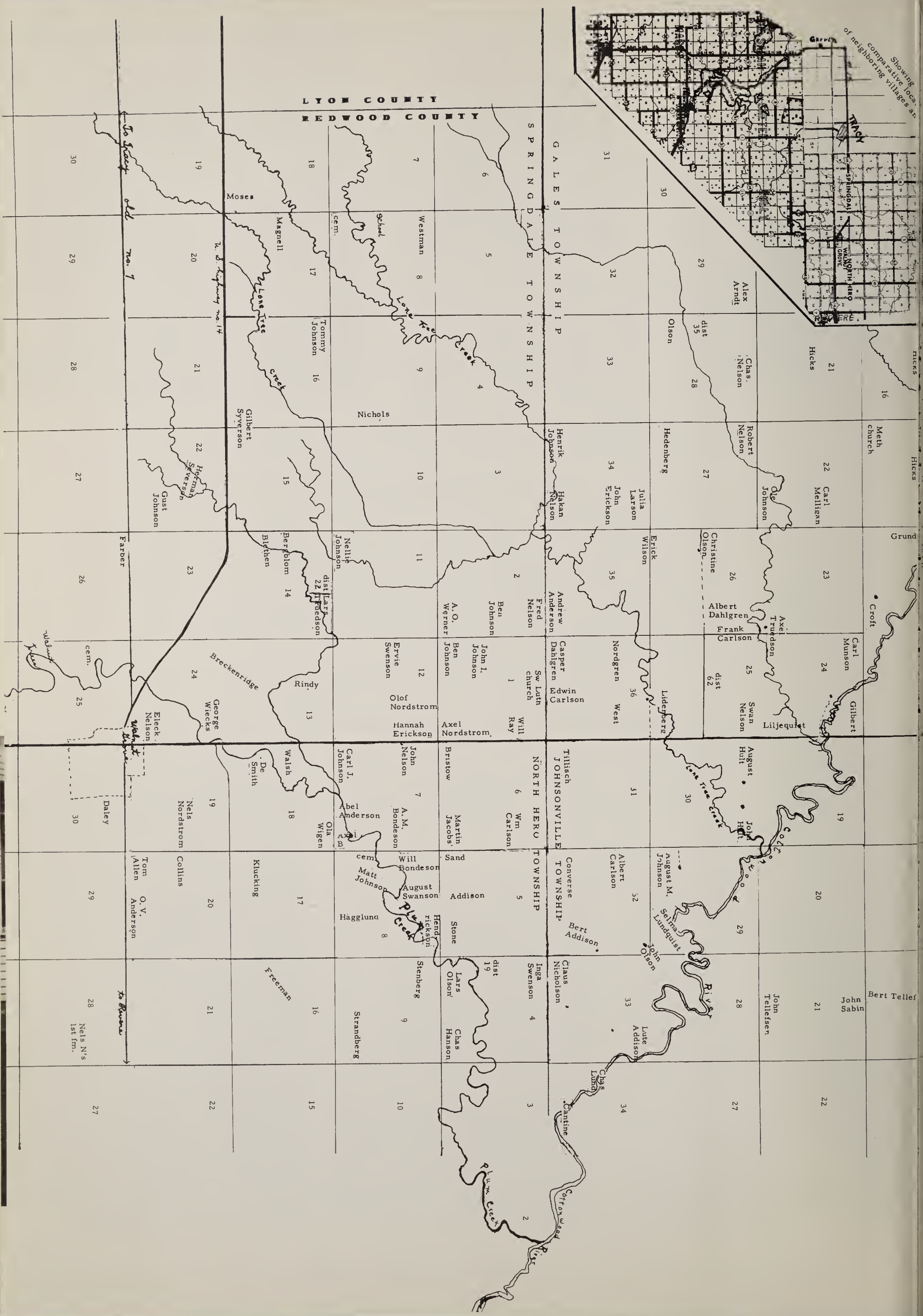
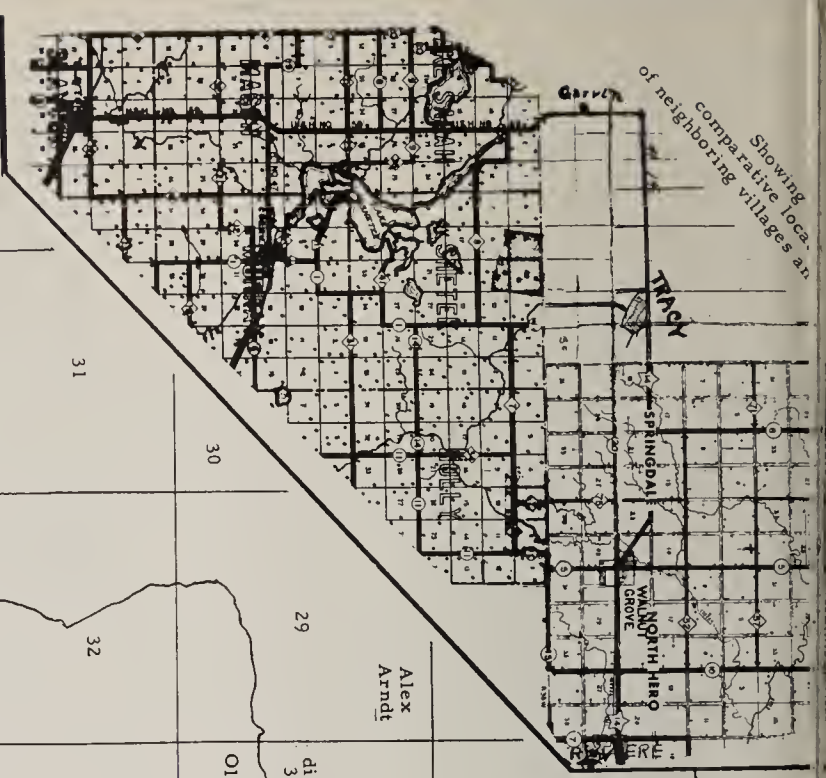
KAREN DIANE, who enjoys sewing and reading, plays cornet in the school band at Walnut Grove. She plays the piano and is Sunday School organist at the Methodist church, where the family are members. Karen has expressive eyes and a winning smile.

Bill, Bruce and Karen have all served as officers of their school classes.





Showing comparative location of neighboring villages and towns







August



# AUGUST



AUGUST MAGNUS, son of Jöns and Karolina Ingemansson, was born April 19, 1879, at his paternal grandparents' home in Österslöv, Kristianstads Län, Skåne, Sweden, just two weeks after the arrival there of his mother. In Sweden his surname was Jönsson; in America, Johnson. Johnson became his legal name at the time of his naturalization, papers being filed at Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

Jöns Ingemansson had intended to leave his wife and family with her parents in Småland until he had built a house for them in Skåne, but after buying a site and laying a foundation he realized that he didn't have the means to complete the house according to their plans, and needed the help of his wife before doing anything more. Although he had brought son Karl with him to Skåne the previous fall, and was staying at the home of his own parents, he longed for his wife and daughter. He didn't want them to stay in Småland until after the new baby arrived because that would mean quite a delay. He arranged for the use of an unfinished room annexed to his parents' house and wrote to Karolina that she should come because the house was ready.

Karolina, with her little daughter, Anna, made the trip from Väckelsång, Småland, to Österslöv, Skåne, a distance of approximately 21 English miles, by train. She had preferred to stay in Småland until after her baby was born, and would have done so if she had known that her own house had not been built. But now there was no time to return, so she made the best of circumstances as they were. As a result, August became a "Skåning" instead of a "Smålänning."

August was baptized in infancy, attended elementary schools and confirmation instruction, and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church of Sweden, as other children of his day. Following his confirmation he sought to earn his own living. He secured employment with a meat dealer at Kristianstad. This man bought cattle from farmers, butchered these animals and sold the meat at the Market (Torget) in Kristianstad. Sometimes he secured orders in advance and then delivered directly to consumers. August assisted the dealer with all of these tasks.

Shortly before leaving for America, August decided to try a similar business on his own and did buy some cattle at Karsholm's herregård, and processed them for sale. When threatened by a man who did not wish to have him buy cattle there, August found the business unsatisfactory and was glad to give it up when the family decided to emigrate.



Not long before his 17th birthday, August left with his parents, sisters and a younger brother for America, thus observing his birthday aboard ship, somewhere on the Atlantic. The family arrived at Walnut Grove, Minnesota, May 3, 1896.

After spending one night at the Lars Erickson home north of Walnut Grove, the family went to live in the small unfinished house which John Peterson and brother Carl had erected on the latter's newly purchased farm between Ericksons and Walnut Grove.

That same day father John I. Johnson (As Jöns Ingemansson became known in America) and Carl bought a team of horses from Art Boyle near Walnut Grove. They paid \$60 for the black and \$50 for the bay gelding. The latter had never been driven, the former very little. Later the family agreed that it would have been better to have bought the four horses which Swoffer offered for sale at \$75 each, as Lars Truedson recommended, so that August would have been free to "work out" that summer as his brothers and sisters did. As it was, August had to stay at home to help his father "break" these horses. One of the men guided the breaking plow while the other managed the horses. Both of them walked.

August and his father had two other horses on the plow. These had been purchased their second day in America, when John I. Johnson accompanied Lars Erickson to a place south of Walnut Grove where he bought the two bay mares, supposedly 10 and 13 years old, but probably older, a set of harnesses, a wagon and a breaking plow for \$120. Carl had previously ordered one set of harnesses from Sears Roebuck's. Those bay mares also proved a disappointment and that fall they were traded to Raleigh Freeman for some machinery valued at \$10 or \$12.

After spending the summer at home with his parents, August went to work for Lars Truedson during harvest. The next two years he worked for Swan Peterson and S. P. Hicks, after which he moved to his own farm, located one mile east and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of Walnut Grove. He lived there until his death, December 16, 1953.





On September 14th, 1904 August was united in marriage with ELLEN VICTORIA DAHLGREN. Ellen was the daughter of Kasper and Charlotta Dahlgren who lived on a farm north of Walnut Grove. August and Ellen drove to Tracy, Minnesota, in a top buggy pulled by a team of "bronchos" and were married at the Lutheran parsonage there. Ellen wore a blue brilliantine wool dress trimmed with a white lace yoke. She had a corsage of white carnations and carried a bouquet. She was attended by Ida Johnson who wore a white lace blouse and black wool skirt. Ida also had a corsage of white carnations. Bernhard Johnson was best man. August and Ben wore dark suits with white carnation boutonnieres. The Rev. Meline officiated at the simple single ring ceremony. After the wedding they had a dinner at the W. D. Haycock residence in Tracy. Wedding pictures were taken at a photographer located on the east side of main street in Tracy. They made their home on the farm north of Walnut Grove.



Left to right, top: Harry, Elmer; Hubert, Harry, Elmer; Elmer, Alvina, Hubert, Harry. Center: Bob. Bottom: Ellen, Bob; Rosella, Anton, Rosella, Hubert.





Harry, Ellen, Alvina, August



August Johnsons in their Overland  
by old farm home



Harry, Elmer, Bernhard  
Carlson, 1925

August was six feet tall, had brown hair and blue eyes. Ellen is 5'4" tall, has brown hair and blue eyes. She attended the Prairie Lawn School district #62. Her hobbies are sewing and embroidery. Both August and Ellen retained membership in the Trinity Lutheran Church. August served as Trustee at one time. Ellen has been active in the women's work of the church. Ellen was very young when married and sometimes found the demanding position as a farmer's wife quite difficult, but August was considerate and tried to help with some chores where possible. Ellen had the trying experience of being ill and required to stay in bed for several months, but she did come through with fine health and is now busy as ever. At the present time she lives on the Zuidema place, former John Nelson farm, which her son, Bob, farms.

Six of August and Ellen's children are living now; namely, Elmer, Harry, Hubert, Alvina, Elroy Robert (Bob), and Rosella. More will be told about them on following pages.

ARTHUR WALLACE was born January 4, 1930. He was baptized by Rev. Raymond E. Borg on January 7, 1930. Witnesses were his parents and Mrs. Jacob Nelson. Arthur passed away when he was nine days old. He was buried at the Trinity Lutheran cemetery north of Walnut Grove.

On September 14th, 1947 the children had a surprise party for August and Ellen for their 43rd wedding anniversary. Ellen had gone into the Bakery in Tracy, Minnesota the day before and there on the counter was a large cake decorated for a 43rd wedding anniversary. When Ellen came out of the Bakery she told Alvina about the cake she had seen and she said "Just think, someone else has a 43rd wedding anniversary the same time we have." The next day the cake arrived at her home for the surprise party. The children gave August and Ellen a chrome kitchen table and chairs as a gift.

In March, 1953 August and Ellen went on a vacation trip to Oregon to visit their daughter, Rosella. They went by train from Montevideo, Minnesota to Seattle, Washington, from Seattle to Portland, Oregon, from Portland to Eugene, Oregon and from Eugene to Oakridge, Oregon where Rosella lived at that time. During their visit there they met an elderly Swedish couple, Mr. and





Ellen, Mr. & Mrs. Swanson, August



Ellen in old farm home

Mrs. Fred Swanson. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson had both been born in Sweden and they spoke Swedish fluently. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson, August, Ellen and Rosella went for a drive up to Willamette Pass, some thirty miles up the mountain. On the way back they stopped at McCredie Springs Lodge, a large log building. There were tables covered with red checkered table cloths, a huge fire place in the middle, and the dining room was lit by firelight and candles. Fred Swanson had a nice voice and he sang some of the old Swede songs in the Swedish language. Fred Swanson worked as a "tally man" at the large sawmill in Westfir, Oregon. Oakridge and Westfir are located in the heart of the Willamette National Forest.

August Johnson passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at his home on December 16th, 1953. The funeral was held in the Trinity Lutheran Church at Walnut Grove on December 21st, 1953 with the Rev. O. Phillip Johnson, of Avoca, vice-pastor of the church, officiating. He was buried at the Trinity Lutheran cemetery located north of Walnut Grove.

One of Ellen's early recollections probably shows that she was a typical farm child of her day. When the threshers were working at her parental Kasper Dahlgren place she helped her mother bring lunch to them at the machine, but when she came near she became bashful and hid behind her mother. She smiles as she tells how August used to tease her about this incident after they were married. He had seen her peek out on the side of her mother that day.

Ellen also remembers when the John I. Johnson family came from Sweden and that they lived in the little shack-like house where the Carl J. Johnson farm home now stands. She says the little house was clearly visible on the treeless hill to the east of the road which most of the northside early settlers used when they went in to Walnut Grove with produce and to bring back groceries.

Ellen with grandchildren Dick & Eileen Kaufenberg 1952.



August and Ellen's first grandchildren, left to right: Delores, Joyce, Eleanor







October 9, 1926



Silver Anniversary

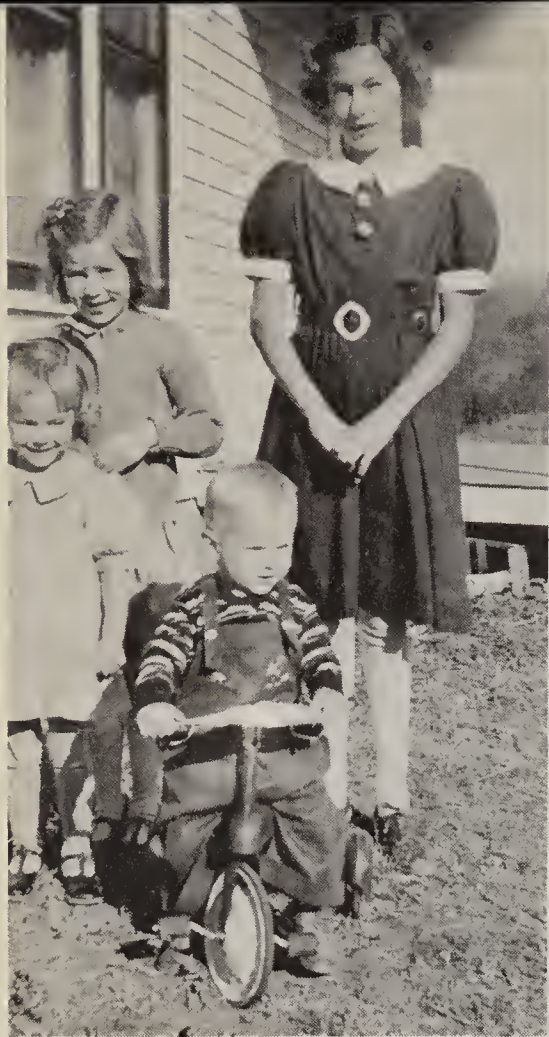
### ELMER

ELMER THEODORE, born August 4, 1905, was the first born of the August Johnson children. He was baptized by Rev. A. Melin at the Johnson farm home, godparents being Carl and Mathilda Johnson. Elmer attended Bible School, taught mainly in the Swedish language, at the district # 62 school house and later at district # 19 school. Miss Anna Bergblom was the teacher at that time. He was confirmed by Rev. L. E. Sjolinder in the Swedish Lutheran Church, located north of Walnut Grove, now Trinity Lutheran in town, on September 21, 1919. Cousins Hilma and Elmer, being only about three weeks apart in age, were confirmation classmates. They were among those who used Swedish catechisms, although half of the class used English books. Rev. Sjolinder realized this was a transition period and prepared the children for it by using the English language for all explanations and comments. Classes met in the "Opera Hall", second floor of Dahlgren Store building, originally Swoffer's Store. Most Sunday services were held at the church in the country. Rev. Sjolinder had resigned, and left Walnut Grove shortly after confirming the class of which Elmer was a member. After that time most services, and finally all, were held in town.

Elmer was an alert boy who learned quickly. This offered a constant source of competition for his cousin Hilma, who was told by other relatives about Elmer's accomplishments and was often afraid that she couldn't keep up with him. One of the most vivid of these recollections is that of Elmer's success in spelling. She also recalls his having pushed her into a currant bush near their house. Yet, she enjoyed visiting at their home, partly because of proximity of ages; there was always activity and special toys—homemade or "store bought." She has felt close to Elmer through the years, even though separated by miles and seldom visiting, and has enjoyed his and his wife's company whenever their paths have crossed.

Elmer married GERTRUDE HERDER, who was born at Lamberton August 2, 1906 and completed her schooling there. She is of German descent. Both Elmer and Gertrude (Gertie) are 5'9", have brown hair and blue eyes. They enjoy square dancing and have continued this recreation with organized teams. One of the pictures in this book shows them in costume, very becoming to them both. They are members of the First English Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls. Gertie served as 4-H adult leader 15 yrs. They were married October 9, 1926, and have farmed since then. Places of residence: Walnut Grove, 1926-29; Morgan 1929-30; Lamberton 1930-35; Redwood Falls, 1935-





Delores, Joyce,  
Eleanor, Emery



Alan, 1956

Back row: Delores, Joyce,  
Eleanor. Front: Gertie, Emery,  
Elmer with Alan

Elmer and Gertrude's three oldest children, Delores, Joyce and Eleanor are married and have homes of their own. The two youngest, boys, are at home except for school. EMERY was born at Redwood Falls, September 17, 1938. He has brown hair and blue eyes and is 5'11" tall. He graduated from Redwood Falls High School in 1956 and is now a sophomore at Winona State College. He has been active in 4-H work; is now a member of the Winona State College wrestling team.

ALAN was born at Redwood Falls, June 27, 1950 and is an active farm boy, always finding something to do. He attends school and church in Redwood Falls.

Alan, 1956

Emery 1956

Gertie & Elmer





Elmer and Gertrude's oldest daughter, DELORES THEODORA, was born in Johnsonville township, Redwood County, Minnesota, February 10, 1928. She completed high school at Redwood Falls, Minnesota and was employed as stenographer, secretary, bookkeeper. On September 3, 1946 she married BILLY LOWELL NEMITZ, who was born at Morton in Renville County, Minnesota, December 12, 1926. He has completed high school, and then Gunner's Mate School in the service. He is a career man with the United States Navy, having completed 14 years, with only 6 years to go for possible retirement. Also operates a Tailor Shop at the Navy Base; present rating is Personnel Man First Class.

Delores and Billy have lived at several addresses in Minneapolis area and are now located at Bellwood, Illinois. The family are all members of Grace Lutheran (Augustana) Church at La Grange, Illinois. They have two adopted children, Gary Lee, who was born at St. Paul, Minnesota, April 21, 1955 and Edward Alan, born at Chicago, July 30, 1958. Gary was brought home when he was three weeks old. He is very active, enjoys the outdoors. Eddy was brought home when he was five weeks old. He is a sweet baby and Gary enjoys him to the utmost.

Delores' hobbies: Bowling and sewing. Billy's: At present, electric trains, also bowls, plays softball. Is secretary of Recreation Comm. at Navy Base. Is very handy at home, installing gas lines for drying, venting, etc. When asked about hobbies, Delores replied, "Our children are our joy and pride. We do everything with them in mind."

Gary (age 3½) Delores, Billy



Eddy at 10 months  
1959







Bob and Joyce



Eleanor and Ronald

JOYCE, Elmer and Gertrude's second daughter, was born at Lamberton, September 4, 1933. She graduated from Redwood Falls high school with honors, plays the piano and the accordin. Her sister says, "She has no piano now but is very good and has natural talent in that direction. She sews beautifully and makes clothes for her children. Also is a good cook and an expert cookie baker." She did secretarial work before marriage.

Joyce and ROBERT VERN NELSON (Bob) were married January 10, 1954. Bob was born at Belview, July 10, 1933 and completed high school at Belview. Occupation: Home Gas Co., Inc., Bulk Delivery. Joyce, Bob and the children are members of First English Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls. Joyce is also a member of the Mothers' Circle. Bob served in the U.S. Army April, 1953-April, 1955. Rank, Cpl.

Joyce and Bob enjoy dancing. Bob is a sports fan, hunts pheasants and cares for the lawn and garden. Joyce says, "Our interests at present lie mostly with our three small children. We have purchased our home, although a small one, and our time is spent painting, seeding, digging, etc. Our family loves to go for a drive, which is how we spend nearly every Sunday afternoon all summer."

#### Children:

Jeffery Kevin, born at Redwood Falls, January 17, 1956

Debra Joy, born at Redwood Falls, April 19, 1957

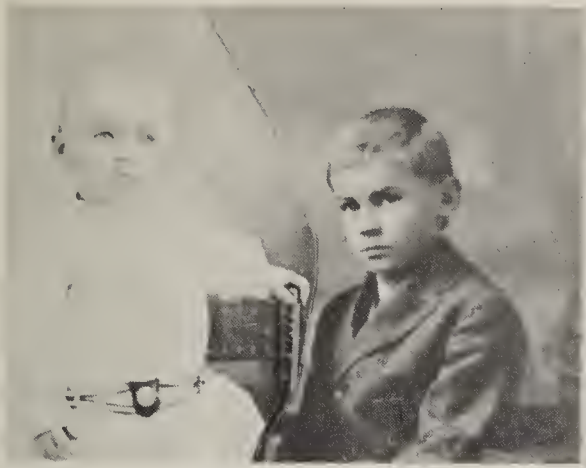
Charles Robert, born at Redwood Falls, September 7, 1958

ELEANOR ELLEN, Elmer and Gertrude's third daughter, was born at Redwood Falls, July 14, 1936. She was graduated from the Redwood Falls High School in 1953 and was employed as a secretary until the time of her marriage. She is a member of the First English Lutheran Church; Redwood Falls. Has been president of Redwood County Rural Youth; vice-president of County 4-H Clubs Federation (also secretary); received top county Leadership Award in 4-H; top county W N A X Leadership Award for Rural Youth in 1956; first place Farm Frolics winner with her clarinet solo in 1951; High School band, chorus, and cheerleading. She also plays the violin.

Eleanor married RONALD JOHN WAGNER, November 29, 1958. He was born in Granite Rock township, Lucan, Minnesota, January 6, 1931, and completed his elementary schooling there; grades 9-10 at Milroy High School and grades 11-12 at Wabasso High School, graduating from the latter in 1948. He is a member of Church of St. Mary Catholic church of Seaforth. Ronnie and Eleanor live in Redwood Falls, while Ronnie farms near Seaforth.

Both Eleanor and Ronnie enjoy dancing, League bowling and horseback riding. Eleanor also likes to sing; Ronnie enjoys hunting. He raises purebred Arabian horses.





Betty  
Rhae



## HARRY

HARRY WILLIAM JOHNSON was born June 24, (the day of the Swedish Lutheran Midsummer Picnic), 1908, at the family home northeast of Walnut Grove, Minnesota. He was baptized August 16, 1908, by the Rev. L. E. Sjolinder who was the pastor of what is now the Trinity Lutheran Church at Walnut Grove. Louis and Ida Larson, his aunt and uncle, were the sponsors.

He was confirmed June 11, 1922, by Rev. Rudolph Peterson of the same church. He is still a member of this church. While living at Marshall, Minnesota, he attended the Evangelical Lutheran Church there, for 20 years. He now resides near Tracy so has resumed attendance at the church where he was confirmed. He has blue-green eyes, his hair is dark and he is five feet, nine inches tall.

Harry's present interests are chiefly basketball and sports. When he was a young man he enjoyed horse training. He trained many horses, including bronchos, to do tricks, using only a command and whip. Once he shot an unusual bird, a kind he had never seen before, down on the riverbottom land and took it to O. B. Dahlgren who ran a general store in Walnut Grove. O. B. said that it was a pheasant, not common in this area at that time. He sent it away to have it stuffed and when it came back O. B. bought it from him. Later, Harry took a course in taxidermy and stuffed many wild animals such as squirrels, weasels, birds, owls, pheasants, etc. He also took violin lessons. He enjoyed playing Swedish folk songs with his grandfather, Casper Dahlgren, who also loved to play the violin.

Harry's main occupation is farming. He is farming 320 acres now, but had 400 acres when living near Marshall. His main crops are corn, oats, flax and beans. He also raises hogs, having 100 or more on feed at all times. He feeds cattle, has a few sheep and chickens—selling eggs to the hatchery from state approved flock.

He was married June 30, 1935 to Miss Beatrice Alice Berneice Burmeister, by Rev. Harry Gregerson of the English Lutheran Church at Marshall, Minnesota. Miss Evelyn Burmeister and Elroy Robert Johnson were best man and matron of honor. Harry and Beatrice will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, June 30, 1960. They have two children, Betty Rhae, born August 26, 1938, and Robert Bruce, born July 11, 1946.

Mrs. Harry W. Johnson, nee BEATRICE BURMEISTER, was born May 27, 1912, at St. Paul, Minnesota, a daughter of Anton Theodore and Bertha Hillsburg Burmeister, of German descent. She was baptized June 23, 1912 by Rev. G. A. Ernst, pastor of Lutheran Church on Humboldt Avenue, St. Paul. Aunt Meta Gustke and Uncle Albert Burmeister were sponsors. Beatrice was confirmed July 31, 1927, by Rev. Edward Birkholtz, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Marshall, Minnesota. She has brown eyes, brunette hair and is five feet, four inches tall.

She was stricken with polio when three and one-half years of age and could not walk for about two years, but she was able to attend kindergarten. She attended school in St. Paul at Elementary Garfield School until 1919. Then her parents moved to a farm near Marshall, Minnesota, for Beatrice's health. There she attended District 28, Lyon County, through the eighth grade, graduating in 1926.



She attended high school at Marshall and also Normal Training School at Tracy, to receive an Elementary Grade School Teachers Certificate. She taught school at District 61 in Lyon County, Minnesota, the first two years (having 47 pupils—all grades—the first year), and at District 2, also in Lyon County, for two more years.

Her interests include community and social work, program planning, directing plays at club, school, and church. She was program advisor for Luther League, planning food, entertainment and decorations at different times. She was chairman of cancer drive of Springdale Township. She was a Sunday School teacher for seven years at Marshall Church and has been a teacher at the Walnut Grove Church for the last four years. She is also a member of the Ladies Aid at Trinity in Walnut. She loves gardening—growing vegetables and many beautiful flowers.

BETTY RHAE JOHNSON was born August 26, 1938 in the Marshall, Minnesota, Hospital. She has brown eyes, brunette hair, and is 5 feet 4 inches tall.

Betty Rhae was baptized March 21, 1940 by Rev. E. R. Gamm, Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Marshall. Sponsors were Aunt Evelyn Miller and Uncle Lloyd Burmeister. She was confirmed April 6, 1952 in the same church by the same pastor.

Betty Rhae attended District 42 Lyon County Minnesota Elementary Grade School for four years, then went to Marshall Public School through sophomore year of high school. The family moved to a farm at Tracy, Minnesota where Betty finished high school. She then attended Mankato Commercial College. She took a Civil Service test and has been employed as a clerk-stenographer since April 8, 1957, at the Social Security field office at Marshall, Minnesota.

She plays the piano, loves to read, enjoys church and social work. Right now, she is a Primary Sunday School teacher. Betty has "adopted" two children, a boy in Arizona and a girl in Greece, whom she supports through the Christian Children's Fund at Richmond, Virginia.

In 1953, Betty broke her leg and was in traction from April until the last of August. She returned to school on crutches the last of October. The next summer, she cut off the tip of her thumb in the lawn mower.

At present she lives at Marshall and comes home weekends, driving her own car.

ROBERT BRUCE JOHNSON was born July 11, 1946 at Marshall. He has blue eyes, blonde hair, is four feet, six inches tall (1959) and growing.

He was baptized November 28, 1954 by Rev. Erni T. Holm of Trinity Lutheran Church of Walnut Grove. His sponsors were his Grandmother, Mrs. August Johnson, and Uncle Elroy Robert (Bob) Johnson. He attends Sunday School, Luther League and confirmation instruction at the same church (where he expects to be confirmed in 1960).

Robert attended the Marshall public school for one year and up to March 1 of the second year, when the family moved to Tracy, Minnesota. He is now in the seventh grade of the public school there. He was Little Citizens League president last year.

He is mechanically and electronically minded, having made a radio, put together several electric motors, and model airplanes, cars, ships, and such. He became interested in these things when he was in bed with rheumatic fever when he was seven years old.

Robert loves pets. He has a trained steer two and one-half years old which he rides and drives on a cart (he made himself), like a horse. He also has a pet chameleon that he has had for five years, plus dogs and cats.

He also has a motor scooter he rides—and tinkers with! He loves to hunt, fish, drive tractors, and all kinds of shop work at school. At present writing Robert and a neighbor boy have almost finished making a midget car with a 4½-5 horse power motor.





Beatrice, Harry, Betty Rhae and Robert vacation, 1959



Hubert  
(Herb)



## HUBERT

HUBERT RAYMOND was born July 26, 1912. He was baptized August 31, 1912, at their farm home by Rev. L. E. Sjolinder. His godparents were Kasper and Charlotta Dahlgren. He was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Walnut Grove on August 7, 1927, by Rev. Paul Gustafson.

When Herb, as he was generally known, was about 12 years old he was interested in raising chickens. He set hens on eggs and hatched little chicks. Miss Esther Swanson came around selling tickets for a church supper and Herb purchased one from her. Esther commented, "Well, Herb, that took all your money." To which he replied, "Yes, I'll have to set another hen now."





1. The Quintet, 1947
2. Marma Jean rides 'em early
3. Don Loy, Mercedes and Donovan at Hinckley
4. Marma Jean, Donovan & Don Loy feed the lambs
5. Donovan & Don Loy
6. Delano with his father at Crescent Lake, Oregon—1956





Herb completed his schooling at district 19, north of Walnut Grove. He farmed for a number of years and is now employed as a construction worker in Oregon. Once he was involved in an accident on the job and was believed dead or dying. His life was spared and he is back at work as before.

On August 18, 1932, Hubert married MILDRED L. BOLLHOEFER, who was born at Newton, Iowa, April 4, 1912, and attended school near Walnut Grove. The Bollhoefers lived two miles from the August Johnsons.

Hubert and Mildred have lived at Walnut Grove, Hinckley and Zumbrota, in Minnesota, and, since 1953, in Oregon. They were members of Redeemer Lutheran Church at Zumbrota. Hubert was a member of the school board at Hinckley. He enjoys hunting and fishing. Mildred lists her chief interest as the children and their little ones, putting Delano through school, and in her work, as cook.



Left: Mercedes and Delano.  
Right: Delano with his mother, 1959



Left to right, top:  
Don Loy, Marma  
Jean.  
Bottom: Donovan,  
Delano,  
Mercedes

Below, Delano, high school Junior 1958-59







Left: Marma Jean with Irene  
Above: Jerry and Marma Jean with Irene  
Center and right, below: William Gerald

MARMA JEAN, the oldest of the children, was born in Redwood County, Minnesota, August 14, 1934. She attended rural elementary schools followed by high school in Zumbrota, and worked as waitress, cashier and hotel maid until her marriage March 8, 1952, to GERALD RODRICK FREIHEIT. He was born at Lake City, Minnesota, November 20, 1929, attended rural school and is now engaged in farming.

Marma Jean and Gerald live on their farm  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Bellchester, address is Goodhue, Minnesota. They are members of St. Peter's Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), and of the Farmers' Union. Gerald has served as secretary for Mazeppa Local Farmers' Union for a year.

Marma Jean's hobbies are drawing, oil painting and reading. Gerald, also known as Jerry, has a workshop where he does most of his farm repair work, including welding.

Marma Jean and Jerry have two children, born at Lake City, Minnesota. Irene Marilyn was born July 30, 1957, and William Gerald, April 10, 1959.

DON LOY, was born at Walnut Grove, Minnesota, January 10, 1937. He received his schooling at Hinckley and Zumbrota—with church membership at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Zumbrota. He is employed as a plywood worker at Hines Lumber company at Westfir and lives at Oakridge, Oregon. In spare time he enjoys fishing and doing odd jobs.

Don Loy married FRANCES RUTH FARMER, born at Sacramento, California, September 1, 1938, and attended schools in California and in Oakridge, on April 14, 1956. Frances Ruth is a sociable person, enjoying fashions and activities when her duties as homemaker permit. They have two sons, born at Oakridge, Johnny Dale, December 6, 1957 and Tommy Lee, April 8, 1958.

DELANO, the youngest of the five children, is now a senior at Oakridge high school. He plays basketball and baseball, and also likes to hunt, fish and swim. He is a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oakridge. He was born at Hinckley, Minnesota, August 4, 1942, and started school at Zumbrota, where the family moved from Hinckley.





Don Loy, Frances  
and boys  
(Beard celebrates Oregon  
centennial)



DONOVAN was born at Hinckley, Minnesota, February 6, 1939, and on February 5, 1958, married BETTY GENE MARSHALL, born at Merinice, Arizona, November 27, 1941. He attended school at Hinckley and Zumbrota, where he was also a member of the Lutheran church. Betty attended school in Oakridge, where her family moved from Arizona.

Betty has the distinction of descent from the first Americans, being part Cherokee Indian. She likes to ride horse back and to sew for recreation and pastime, when not busy with homemaking tasks. Donovan is a plywood and saw-mill worker. He likes to hunt and to work on cars during spare time.

MERCEDES, Mrs. Dale Tiller, is a very busy mother. She is a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oakridge. During spare time she enjoys TV. Her husband, DALE, is a truck driver and busies himself with keeping his truck in repair when he is not hauling or spending time with the family. Mercedes and Dale were married August 18, 1956.

Mercedes was born at Hinckley, Minnesota, March 4, 1941, and attended schools at Hinckley and Zumbrota. Dale was born at Oakridge, December 11, 1931, where he also attended school. Mercedes and Dale have a son and a daughter. Robert Dale was born in Eugene, Oregon, March 16, 1957, and Valerie was born in Oakridge, June 5, 1958.



Left: Mercedes, Dale  
and children  
Right: Donovan  
and Betty







Alvina at Grandpa and Grandma's, 1919

William and Alvina "Just Married", 1939

## ALVINA

ALVINA CAROLINE was born May 10, 1916. She was baptized by R. L. E. Sjolinder at the farm home and her godparents were Nels and Anna Norstrom. On May 24, 1931, she was confirmed in the Trinity Lutheran church, Walnut Grove, by Rev. Raymond Borg.

Alvina likes to sew. She sewed dresses for her mother, her little sister, and also for some of her nieces and others. She sewed her first dress at the age of 10.

At the time Alvina attended high school in Walnut Grove there were no buses going out to pick up the children who lived in the country so she stayed in town, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Klug.

Alvina married WILLIAM KAUFENBERG, born in Johnsonville township north of Walnut Grove, November 22, 1939. They live on a farm south of Walnut Grove.

William is a member of the local school board. He likes to bowl. Alvina likes to sew. She also enjoys tropical fish and rare breed chickens.

Alvina and William's three children, Eileen, Richard (Dick) and Julie were born at Tracy, Minnesota, in 1944, 1948, and 1956, respectively.

Left: Eileen fishes successfully; Holds buffalo head found in creek near home.  
Lower left: Alvina with Julie, 1958

### School Days 58-59

Eileen, age 14

Dick, age 10

Julie, Christmas







Kaufenbergs visit  
Grandma Ellen



Julie  
11 months



Dick, William and  
Alvina at Crater Lake,  
Oregon, 1955

## ELROY ROBERT

ELROY ROBERT, better known as Bob, was born March 15, 1921. He was baptized April 3, 1921, by Rev. Rudolph Peterson at the farm home, with Bernhard and Esther Johnson as godparents. He was confirmed April 4, 1937 by Rev. Raymond Borg at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Walnut Grove.

Bob rode horseback to school and once his horse fell. Bob suffered a broken collarbone and a broken arm. He was unconscious in the ditch beside the road and when he came to he was in the back seat of Bert Addison's Model "A". Bert had seen the accident happen and stopped to pick him up.

Bob and his mother make their home together on the Zuidema place, formerly John Nelsons', which Bob farms. He enjoys fishing and hunting. One of the pictures in this book shows him beside a deer which he shot on the river bottom-land at the paternal Johnson place which Bob farmed until recently.

1921



1922



Bob with deer that he shot on  
riverbottom of old home farm  
1951







Left:  
Rosella  
graduates  
from high  
school.  
Right:  
Delores,  
Rosella,  
Joyce,  
Eleanor



## ROSELLA

ROSELLA ROMONA was born January 15, 1929. She was baptized by Rev. Paul Gustafson, and her godparents are Carl and Mathilda Johnson. She was confirmed November 14, 1943, by Rev. D. V. Charlson, at Trinity Lutheran Church where she is now a member.

Rosella loved to do things outdoors. Delores, Elmer's oldest daughter used to come and stay during the summer months. The two girls went fishing and swimming in the Cottonwood River. They also gathered "cattails" from the swamp on the bottomland and wove baskets out of the reeds. Rosella had a pet lamb named "Phillips" and a big black and white dog named "Sport."

Rosella's elementary education was received at district 19 and her secondary education at Walnut Grove High School. Following completion of a course at Mankato Commercial College, Mankato, Minnesota, she was employed as insurance and legal secretary.

Rosella enjoys painting and flower gardening. While she was employed by Federated Mutual in Owatonna, the insurance company where she worked for 4½ years, their company magazine ran an article about her painting hobby, with a picture of her seated by an easel in her apartment, putting finishing touches on an oil painting. This picture is shown in this family history book.

The division page introducing the August Johnson branch of the family in this history is a reproduction of Rosella's oil painting of the old home farm in winter. Members of the family who have not seen the original will appreciate seeing that and others. We appreciate Delores Nemitz's request for a reproduction in this book and also Rosella's willingness to let us use this. These paintings depict familiar scenes from Rosella and Delores' childhood.

Below: Rosella at work, 1956





Rosella was secretary of Racer's 4-H Club, Walnut Grove, and held memberships in New Ulm Business and Professional Women's Club, New Ulm, Minnesota, and in Upper Willamette Business and Professional Women's Club at Oakridge, Oregon. She was a charter member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church at Oakridge, where she served as Sunday School teacher and as secretary of Lutheran Ladies' League.

Rosella married WARNER TRUEDSON, son of Axel and Selma Truedson, September 12, 1959. This marriage brings together descendents of two families who were closely associated in early pioneer days in the Walnut Grove area. We reproduce here an article from the September 25, 1959, issue of the Walnut Grove Tribune:

### **Rosella Johnson and Warner Truedson Wed.**

Rosella Johnson and Warner Truedson, both of Walnut Grove, were married Saturday, September 12th at the Calvary Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, with the Rev. A. B. Walfrid officiating.

The bride was attended by Mrs. Arthur Johnson of Walnut Grove and the groom was attended by Robert Johnson of Walnut Grove.

The bride's dress was of light blue lace and she wore a pearl necklace, a gift from the groom. She carried a bouquet of white chrysanthemums. Her attend-

ant wore a brown crepe dress with a lace yoke with pink underlay. Her flowers were pink carnations and she wore a rhinestone necklace and earrings, a gift from the bride.

The groom and his attendant wore dark suits and had white carnation boutonnieres.

The bride's mother, Mrs. August Johnson of Walnut Grove, and the groom's mother, Mrs. Axel Truedson, of Walnut Grove, wore dark fall dresses with white carnation corsages.

Following the ceremony, the group had supper at the Biltmore Inn in Minneapolis.

Mr. and Mrs. Warner Truedson are making their home on Elm street in Tracy.







*Ida*



# IDA

## This Is Your Life—IDA JOHNSON HAYCOCK



Ida  
Christina

Sept. 24, 1881  
—May 3, 1958

During your childhood years growing up in a comfortable home in Österslöv, Sweden, secure in the happiness and love of brothers, a sister and parents, enjoying school to the utmost, you dreamed of someday becoming a teacher. Occasionally the family talk turned from farming, school studies, relatives and friends to rumors and facts about far-away places. More and more, America seemed to come into the conversation, and gradually came the momentous family decision to leave Sweden. It was an earth-shaking decision since it meant selling everything and using the proceeds plus savings to finance the trip to America. It meant leaving friends, relatives, school, the old home—all behind.

Arriving in the United States and soon in Minnesota, your first big project was to learn the English language. Your brother, Carl, had arranged for you to work for an English-speaking family where you would have a chance to learn to speak English. Only fourteen when you went there, you suffered many embarrassing and agonizing moments and homesick hours as you struggled with a strange, new world—different surroundings, people, hard work, and worst of all—the difficult new language. You showed the same perseverance and eagerness to learn that characterized much of your later life, and soon you were able to speak and understand English well enough to go to an American school. Once again you felt awkward, shy, and uncomfortable as you began in the first grade when you were almost grown. Yet you progressed rapidly, passing from one grade to the next as soon as you could read the books for each grade. Though your school progress was excellent and the most embarrassing moments were passed, you realized that you would not be able to go on to high school and become a school teacher as you had dreamed and hoped so long ago in Sweden. Instead you worked for a number of years in homes and hotels around Walnut Grove and Tracy.



One memorable incident from these days occurred when you were 26. Your niece, Ella Nordstrom, then five years old, had injured her leg in a farm accident. Your concern for her prompted you to take her to the doctor in Tracy who insisted that she be taken to St. Luke's Hospital in St. Paul. At the time Ella could speak only Swedish, so it was necessary for you to be with her constantly—even carrying her back and forth the many blocks from hospital to rooming house.

In 1911 you were married to WILLIAM DAVID HAYCOCK, a surveyor and civil engineer from Tracy. The two of you began life together about two and a half miles from Lakeville, Minn., where you built your own home and barn on a few acres of land bordering Lake Marion. Here all three of your children were born—Ruth Camilla, Winfield Scott, and Esther Marcella. Together you planted a large garden each year, and fruit trees and berries. You kept chickens, a cow, and one or two pigs—enough to furnish much of the food for the family. Fishing, from a boat in summer and through the ice in winter, added to the variety. Some of the fish was smoked for several days in the old smokehouse out beyond the well.



William D. Haycock



Haycock and Lusk, 1925

Since your mother and father spoke only Swedish and your husband and children only English, your mother sent Ruth and Winfield each a Swedish primer, hopefully. They thought it was fun to read the first pages, but never went beyond the stage of "Här är en hund. Det är min hund. Min hund är snäll."

In 1921, you and your husband decided to move to Minneapolis. Your husband went to the city several weeks before moving day and built what was later to be the garage and chicken coop. It was with great excitement, during Easter vacation, that the family moved into the new building. The children thought it was fun to live in the one big room. As soon as the weather permitted, the foundation was poured for a new house. The building of the house was the summer's project, and the family was well settled in it in time for a party in honor of Ruth's ninth birthday in October.

The years in that house were happy years. The children attended Jenny Lind School, which was then a two-room portable building. You were active in P.T.A. (even vice president or president) and always willing to help take a group of children downtown on a field trip or to the dentist or doctor. Sometimes you would take your own family for a picnic at Minnehaha Falls. Those picnics were real occasions, as much for the long street-car rides as for the food and the falls.



After seven years in north Minneapolis, you moved to a farm five miles northwest of Anoka where you spent a particularly difficult year. The barn had burned the previous year; as a result, in addition to the usual summer work, your husband and son, Winfield, who was now in high school, began building a new barn. During the process your husband became ill with rheumatism and there was considerable difficulty finding adequate help to continue the building and the farm work. Illness continued on into the fall and winter, and was followed by surgery. The winter was unusually cold and snowy and the road impassable for many weeks. The five mile trek to town on skis was undertaken when necessary.

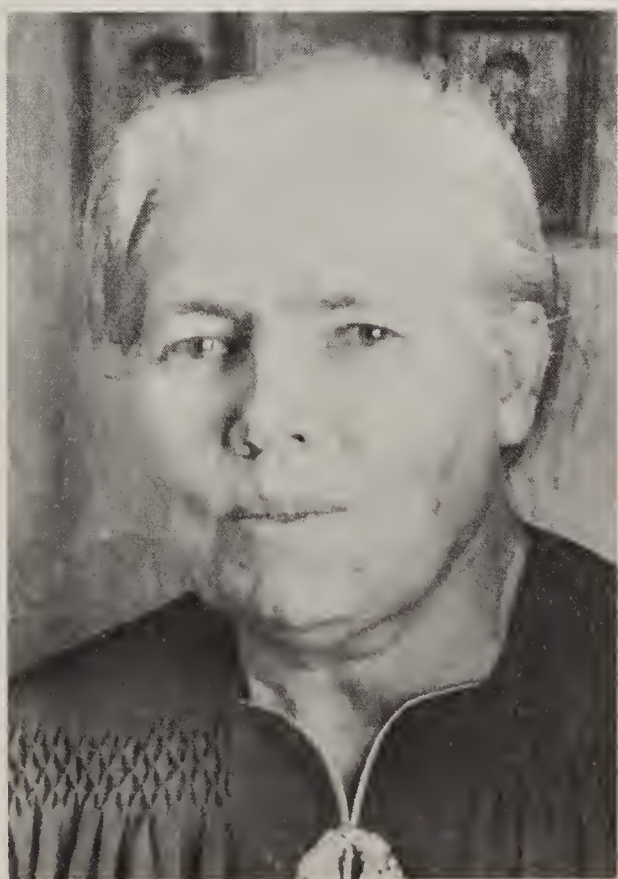
Finally spring came with high school graduation for Ruth. Because of the long siege of illness and the fact that Ruth was ready for the University of Minnesota, the family moved back to Minneapolis in the summer of 1929. This move meant that all three of your children were able to live at home during their college training, Ruth and Esther attending the State University; and Winfield, after working five years at First National Bank and studying at night school, and serving as a lay pastor at Mound, attended Hamline University. It was in 1932, just before Ruth's last year in the University, that your husband became seriously ill from several paralytic strokes and died.

Your mother came to live in your home for a while not long after that. Then your children really wished they had learned to speak Swedish.

During these years the family had become active at Harron Methodist Church in north Minneapolis. The children took part in many of the youth activities and sang in the choir. Then Ruth left home to teach in Arlington and then in Granite Falls, and a few years later Esther, too, became a teacher in Ashby, Elbow Lake and Blooming Prairie. Though you did not personally fulfill your early desire to teach, you had the pleasure of seeing your girls enjoy their teaching experiences.

In 1939 Winfield, having graduated from Hamline, married HARRIETT ROWLAND of Red Wing and together they left for Boston University School of Theology. Later Ruth began studies at Baptist Bible Seminary in Johnson City, New York. After Esther married in 1943, you lived alone in your own home, except when Ruth was at home during the summers or when you decided to visit Esther and Jay for a winter.

Your next home in 1950 was in St. Paul with Esther whose husband was pastor of St. John's Methodist Church. You enjoyed your grand-children and loved to read to them or just keep a watchful eye on Philip or David in the play pen. They cherish many happy memories of those days together.





After two years with them, you decided to enter the Walker Methodist Home in south Minneapolis, where you could have all the care you needed without over-taxing Esther, or requiring Ruth to leave her work at the Seminary. You missed the everyday contacts with your children and grand-children, but were sure that this was the Lord's will for you. He honored your testimony too, as you so patiently lived your faith in that home. In your last years, as you were confined to your chair, you often told others how thankful you were for the goodness of the Lord, as you quoted such favorite passages as "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want," and "There is no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus." On May 3, 1958 at the age of 76, you went to your new home in Heaven.



Winfield and  
Ruth



Ruth, Esther, Winfield 1925



Esther, 1918

## THE HAYCOCK CHILDREN

How far back does memory go? Country roads, apple trees, a lake and talk of ice fishing, bees, the unforgettable smell of cinnamon rolls baking—these things we remember with varying degrees of vividness. Our first home at Lakeville, Minn., where RUTH was born Oct. 17, 1912, WINFIELD on April 11, 1914, and ESTHER Dec. 15, 1917, was filled with happiness and the delights of childhood.



When we were 8, 6, and 3, we moved to North Minneapolis and lived in a shed that daddy had built until he and mother (with considerable help and distraction from us) got our new house ready. Such things as listening for the neighbor boy's whistle as he called us out to play, organizing various clubs in the neighbor's unused haymow, learning to read and write in school (Ruth teaching Esther when she was four—so she had a head start at school), studying the United States map on the bedroom wall until we are all "A" students in geography (even before we knew what it was), loving daddy's fiddle playing, enjoying the jaunts mother took us on to Camden Park and elsewhere, delighting in our very intelligent pet pigeon, Polly, and experiencing overwhelming heartbreak when the neighbor's cat ate her up—these are a few of our memories of 5124 North Bryant Avenue.

Leaving the pleasant home daddy had built, we moved in 1926 to a row-house (we knew the house as a "flat", but actually it was a part of a row of houses all attached with two families sharing the same front porch). This home was located in a thickly populated section of North Minneapolis, and all the children living in these row-houses which daddy owned shared the same play area—a crowded grassless back yard, given over to fights among various children. Remembering the role of peacemakers we played as the landlord's children, we can see that even then God was preparing us for later life.

Eagerly in the spring of 1928, we moved to a farm in Anoka County. To us children it was a complete and wonderful change to be able to walk and walk and walk—all on our own land. We experienced the thrill of ownership—our meadow, our woodlot, our wild plums and chokecherries, our columbine and cowslips, our brook to wade in—one year of possession—joint ownership with God of all this wonderful world—a treasure for a lifetime. Yet it was a year of sickness for father and desperately hard work for mother, 7th grade for Esther in a one-room country school (six pupils and an uninspired teacher), 10th grade in Anoka High School for Win (skiing back and forth those five miles in bad weather rather than staying in town), 12th grade for Ruth, graduating with the highest marks in the class yet not being allowed to be valedictorian because she had only been in school there one year. It was a year of fighting quack-grass amid sand and sandburrs, picking blueberries and tangling with wasps, canning, butchering, rendering lard, gathering hazel nuts, feeding chickens, playing in the haymow, cutting down trees for firewood, and digging out after never-to-be-forgotten snow storms.

Then that uprooted feeling again as we moved back in 1929 to a south Minneapolis row-house that daddy owned. Sharp contrast for Esther was Wendell Phillips Junior High and being a part of an eighth grade composed of seven sections after having been the only seventh grader the year before. Win seemed to find himself in the many activities in South High—plays, journalism, speech, even working part time for South High's Principal, Mr. Joseph Jorgens, who counseled and encouraged him. Ruth began hours of endless study that her math and science courses at the University of Minn. required—a real student—no wonder she made Phi Beta Kappa.

The next year another move—this time to a separate house with a lawn and garden in North Minneapolis—was welcomed by all. For Ruth and Win it meant no change in schools since they continued at the University and at South (so Win with high honors could graduate with his friends). Esther changed to Patrick Henry Junior High for ninth grade and went on to finish at North High. After having moved so many times, it was small wonder that when Daddy died in 1932, we all wanted to stay in this home until we left for homes of our own.





1933



1957

## RUTH

Ruth, after a year of graduate study and part time working at the University, left to teach in Arlington in 1934—the year that Esther started the U. After two rather unhappy years of teaching in Arlington, Ruth began three unusually happy years teaching science at Granite Falls High School. Here also, she found an active Baptist church where she was encouraged to study the Bible and where she became increasingly burdened with the need for a more thorough study of God's Word in preparation for some kind of Christian service. Fully expecting that the Lord would call her to some foreign field, she enrolled in Baptist Bible Seminary, Johnson City, New York, in 1939. During her senior year, she was asked to teach two classes at the Seminary, and after graduation she continued on the faculty, teaching courses in children's and youth work.

As the Lord prospered the work of the Seminary and the level of scholarship increased, Ruth began a program of graduate studies at Syracuse University, taking a few courses at a time, until she earned both her Master of Science and Doctor of Education degrees. She earned her M.S. in the Field of Educational Psychology in 1953 and her Ed.D. in Audio-Visual Education in 1956. Her Ed.D. dissertation topic was: Audio-Visual Competencies Needed by Religious Education Workers in Protestant Churches and Pre-Service Training in These Competencies.

Ruth is a member of First Baptist Church, Johnson City, N.Y. (General Association of Regular Baptist Churches.); of the Commission on Research of the National Sunday School Association; and is Chairman of the Department of Education at the Baptist Bible Seminary in Johnson City, N.Y. She is author of the book titled, "Victorious Christian Living, a book of ten flannelboard lessons for youth and adults."

Primary interest: training young people for work in local churches, so that they may more effectively give the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to people of all ages and help those who have received Him to grow into mature Christians. Other interests: Photography, knitting, do-it-yourself projects of many kinds. Honors: Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Lambda Theta, Sigma Epsilon Sigma.

Ruth and two other single women, Bible Club Missionaries, live together in their own house at Binghamton, New York.





## WINFIELD

Winfield and Harriet have three children, Eliot, age 15. Laurel, age 10, and James, age 3. When asked about his activities and interests, Win had this to say, "My interests are mostly in the work of the church though I enjoy sports, particularly handball and fishing. Travel is our main ambitious avocation and we have had two very interesting trips to Europe, and one to Mexico. I do a little now and then on radio and television, and a little writing of which I hope to do more. My biggest project this past year has been planning for a new church. This is a long-time thing, of course, but we are very happy that we have completed the purchase of a magnificent eight-acre site over-looking Duluth and Lake Superior."

For those who are interested in more details about Winfield's church and public activities, we quote the following from a biographical sketch prepared and used by his church on occasions where an introduction is needed.

"Dr. Winfield S. Haycock is a member of the Minnesota Conference, The Methodist Church, and is presently pastor of First Methodist Church, Duluth, Minnesota.

"He is a graduate of Hamline University, St. Paul, where he majored in psychology and philosophy. He was graduated from Boston University School of Theology, Boston, Summa Cum Laude, and was awarded the Jacob Sleeper Fellowship for advanced studies which he took at Boston University and Harvard.

"In 1951 Dr. Haycock was exchange preacher at the Methodist Church in Harpenden, England, and that same year was delegate from the North Central Jurisdiction to the Methodist Ecumenical Conference in Oxford. He also attended the World Pastors' Summer school in St. Andrews, Scotland. In 1957 he was exchange preacher in Worthing, England. Dr. Haycock represented the Duluth clergy at a School for Civil Defense in 1958 and was guest of the Air Force at the Fire Power Demonstration at Elgin Field, Florida; participated in a pulpit exchange with First Congregational Church, San Jose, California; attended the Conference on Moral Foundations of Economic Growth sponsored by the Foundation for Religious Action in the Social and Civil Order in Washington, D. C.

"As a part of his ministry in Duluth he has been director of 'Pastor's Study', a telephone question and answer radio program. He is a member of the Duluth Rotary Club, Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association, the St. Louis County Humane Society, the Duluth City Commission on Alcoholic Beverages and the Board of Trustees of the Educational TV Station.

"First Methodist Church, Duluth, is a city-wide parish including in its activities the sponsorship of a Community House primarily for the down-town area."





The Winfield Haycock family, 1957

The Jay Bostrom family, 1959





## ESTHER

Esther, graduating with a B. S. in Education (major in English and minors in Latin and Library) in 1938, taught high school English for five years. The last two years were in Blooming Prairie, Minn. The first Sunday she was in town, she went to the Methodist Church and afterwards met the minister, JAY N. BOSTROM. On Sept. 1, 1943 Esther and Jay were married in Harron Methodist Church in Minneapolis and went to live in the Ellendale, Minn. parsonage, newly decorated by the church ladies in preparation for this event.



In 1945 Jay and Esther moved to Jordan, Minn., serving the Methodist Church there and at Lydia. The following year on Sept. 29, 1946, Lynn Carol was born, changing the atmosphere of the parsonage a great deal. She started talking very early—about six or seven months and especially loved to shout out a lusty “Hi!” to all latecomers in church.

After three years in Jordan, the Bostroms moved to St. Paul to merge two Methodist churches—each of which had originally been foreign language churches—one Swedish, the other Norwegian. The name, “St. John’s Methodist Church” was chosen, and many and complex were the problems Jay worked on.

Philip Loren was born Feb. 8, 1950, weighing 12 lbs., and constantly amazing his parents and the parishioners with his abilities—such as walking alone at 7½ months. A year and a half later, Aug. 10, 1951, David William was born and named for his grandfathers on both sides. He possessed beautiful blond ringlets, an angelic smile, and a remarkable ability to climb jungle gyms and trees. Lynn and Philip started school at Galtier School in St. Paul, Lynn finishing the fourth grade by the time the next move came in 1956 to Grand Rapids.

This new work, with a newly organized congregation, building a church, planning, teaching—all was challenging. The third year in Grand Rapids is coming to a close with the children happy in second, third and seventh grades. Sunday School, 4H, Cub Scouts, baby sitting, biking, skating, swimming, speech activities, hiking and picnicking are all important parts of their interests. Esther is active in the Woman’s Society of Christian Service in the church, WCTU, American Association of University Women, creative writing group, and is District Director of Children’s Work for the Northeast District of the Methodist Church. She teaches an adult Sunday school class; enjoys collecting poetry, especially devotional material, and does some sewing. Jay, besides all his usual pastoral work, is the Minnesota Conference Secretary and each year publishes the year book which includes all the reports of all the Methodist churches in the state. He also serves on numerous conference and district committees. Leisure time activities: piano, trombone, stamp collection.





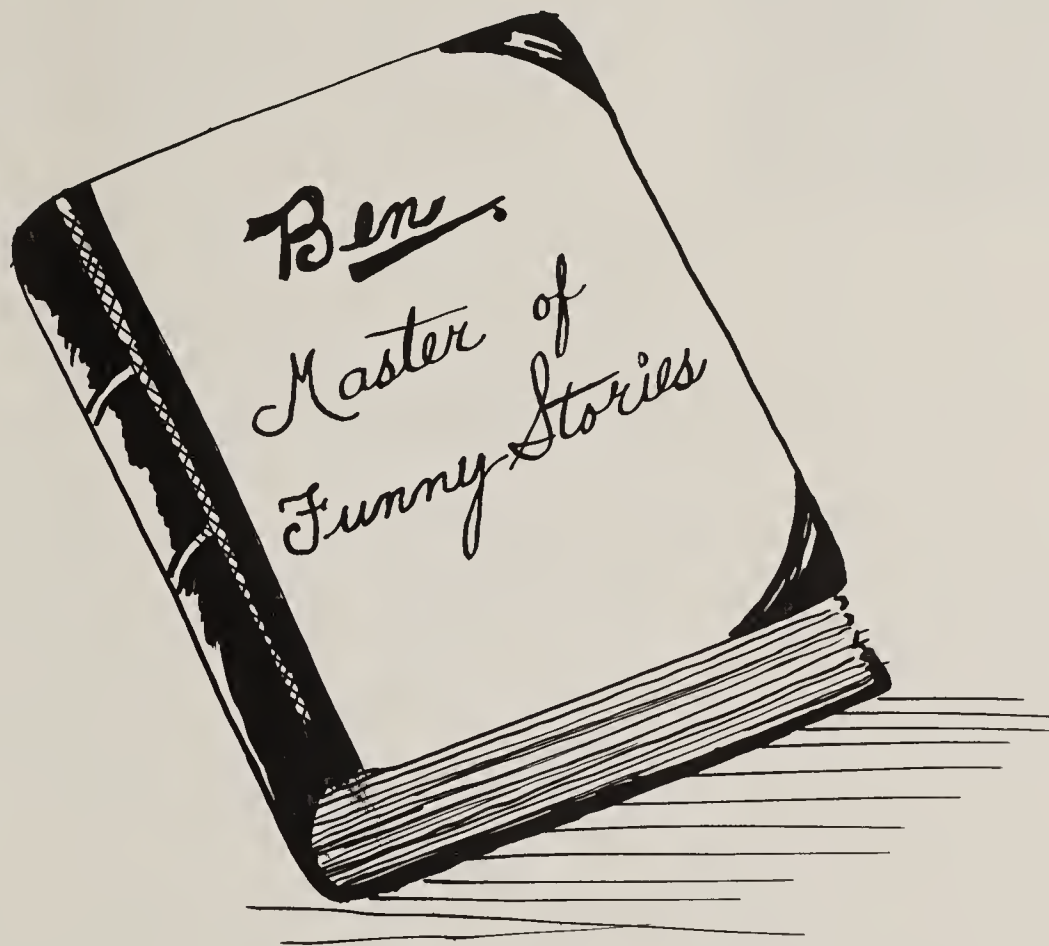
Philip Loren  
1951



David William  
1952







Bernhard





*B. H. Johnson Esther Johnson*

## BERNHARD

On April 18, 1884, BERNHARD HERBERT was the new baby born to the Ingemansson's at Osterslöv, near Christianstad, Sweden. He spent his early years like other little Swedish boys of that day. When he was eleven years old he took his first job, as herdboy, with a farmer, a stranger, for a period of six months. He walked to that first job, a distance of about three miles, where he was to receive at the end of summer, 1 suit of clothes, 1 pr. leather shoes, and one pair of socks. In addition, he was to receive wooden shoes to wear while at work that summer.

What a far different life that was from ours! The rooms of the house and barn were continuous to each other, around an inner courtyard. Ben, the hired man, and the owner's son had the room next to the horse barn. Their beds were frames of wood, upon which long stemmed straw covered with a blanket was placed.

The mother did the housework, the hired girl, the field work. Little cooking was done. Instead, large quantities were prepared—sometimes enough to last a week of each food, such as cereal, cabbage, soup. Much buckwheat was used. Salt pork, herring and potatoes, boiled with jackets on, were used. The entire household was seated at the table. The only son, a hunchback, was in charge of the bread. He cut a piece for each person with his own sharp pocket-knife, then kept the long round loaf behind his back on his chair until more was needed. When there was company, Ben took his lunch and stayed out with the sheep in the evening because he was not to eat with the guests nor bring the sheep to the well in the courtyard until the guests had left. On such occasions it got to be very late before the herdboy could retire for the night. In the morning he had to rise early and get the sheep out.

That following April, 1896, the Ingemanssons sold their house first and then, the day before their departure for the U. S. A., auctioned their household goods. After the sale Johan Bengtsons, Anton's parents, entertained the family at supper. About midnight a young farmer who had a platform buggy took them to Christianstad where they boarded a train to Malmö. It was from there via Denmark, Norway, Ireland, and Scotland they arrived in the United States of America.

Tickets cost 214 kroner for each of the parents, Anna, August and Ida. Ben went for half fare, although his size made the ticket collector suspicious. With them they each had a trunk containing chiefly their personal belongings and the Mother's spinning wheel.





1. Ben, about 1902. 2. Esther, in Sweden. 3. Esther, first in America. 4. Ben and Esther, 1920.

One large trunk was made of wood banded with steel, the work of a carpenter. Each person carried his birth certificate, obtained from the parish minister.

As Ben remembers the ship on which they crossed the ocean, there were four rooms each to accommodate 100 persons, in which the passengers were assigned according to unmarried men, unmarried women, families. The first day each received his tinware from which he would eat during the entire journey and which he was to keep clean at the drinking fountains on deck.

After a 19 day voyage, their only stop on the 3 day train trip to Walnut Grove was in Chicago. Eleck Nelson met the train at 4:10 P.M. May 3 and took them to his home for a bounteous supper. Later in the evening the family went by hayrack to the Lars Erickson home, "the best house in the community at that time" (present Oberg farm) to spend the night.

Carl had found a job for Ben as herd boy to 200 sheep on the Lars Truedson farm. He was to receive some overalls, jackets and shirts for working from May until Harvest and then he would receive \$1 a week wages.

Ben attended school at district No. 19 during winter months.

Two and one-half years after his arrival, in November, 1898, Ben was confirmed by Rev. Holmgren at the country church near his present farm. The church was then known as the Swedish Lutheran Church and the Swedish language was used exclusively.

Ben worked as a hired man on various farms in the Walnut Grove area for two years and then, at age 16, he went to Minneapolis, where he worked for one year in a combination foundry, blacksmith and machine shop for wages of \$1.50 per day. Of the 300 employees there, half were Swedes. Following this city experience, Ben worked for eight years at blacksmithing for Ole Bjore in Walnut Grove, where he continued until 1909 with the exception of one year when he was at home working on the farm. While living in Walnut Grove, Ben was a member of the fire squad who used to run with the hose cart to fight fires. He can be seen on the fire department picture and also on the Bjore picture in the collection of early Walnut Grove pictures being published with this family book. It was the year that Ben was at home on the farm that many buildings along main street of Walnut Grove burned.

In 1909 his parents persuaded Ben to come home to the farm where he was to begin his lifetime occupation. In 1911 Ben purchased his parents' 80 acre farm for \$4,000. The adjoining 80, purchased for \$29 an acre, was already his. He bought the Methodist minister's 80 for \$95 an acre much later.

In October, 1914, Ben had a close encounter with death and later made a miraculous recovery as the result of a medical experiment. His fingers had been crushed in a cornpicker accident. When he suspected tetanus symptoms he consulted Dr. Jamieson who shortly sent him to Immanuel Hospital in Mankato. Carl was with him. Three doctors said he wouldn't live and his parents and August arrived to bid him farewell. However, tetanus preventive serum, though





Ben in 1920. Ben with sons. Anton with his "ring bearer", Morris.

in the experimental stage, proved successful. He was the first such patient at that hospital to survive. The Mankato paper carried daily reports on the experiment and the case was written up in medical journals of that time.

Ben used what he had learned about nursing procedure to good advantage later when his brother August was so sick that Dr. Jamieson did not expect him to live. Ben, using techniques learned when he was a hospital patient, brought August's temperature down and set him on the road to recovery.

Ben received his citizenship papers on his 21st birthday. George Salker accompanied him for the same purpose. A civil suit of interest to Walnut Grove residents was being tried in the court at Redwood Falls, so it was a good day to find two witnesses who had known them the required five years, from among the spectators and witnesses at the trial that day. To reach Redwood Falls, Ben and George left by train at 2:00 A.M. for an hour's ride to Sleepy Eye where they stayed in the hotel lobby until 10:00, arriving in Redwood Falls at 11:45.

On May 19, 1920, Ben and ESTHER MARIA SANDERBERG began a happy marriage with a ceremony performed at brother Carl's home by Rev. Peterson, the newly arrived minister of Trinity Lutheran church. Esther, born July 28, 1890, had come from Västergötland, Sweden in 1913 and spent some time in the Twin Cities before coming to Walnut Grove to keep house and help care for Ben's mother who had fractured her hip and was not able to walk. At the time of Ben and Esther's marriage his mother was sufficiently recovered that she could do her own housework, although she continued to walk with the aid of a chair. The following year, mother and father moved into a small but comfortable house built for them on the Carl Johnson farm.

Esther with Donald. The family in 1927. Ruth and Don, married in June, 1952.







1. Left to right, back: Morris, Donald; front: Ben and Esther. 2. Morris. 3. Donald. 4. Ruth.

In 1923 and in 1925 sons Donald Bernhard and Morris Einar, respectively, arrived to add to the happiness of Ben and Esther. The sons were Ben's pride and joy and accompanied their Dad on many occasions even while they were very small. In 1940 a modern home was built on the farm, bringing much satisfaction.

Both Esther and Ben have been active in Trinity Lutheran Church and its auxiliaries. Both served on the Bond Committee during the war. Ben helped organize the Springdale-Gales Telephone Co. and served as their Board Chairman. He also served as Springdale Township Supervisor and as member of district 22 School Board (first as Clerk and then for 28 years as Treasurer).

Esther raised many chickens while on the farm, kept a big garden then, and still has some. Ben does yard work, visits, reads a good deal and enjoys fishing occasionally. He has been known for his sunny disposition and a ready story. He is sometimes amused when others besides his neices and nephews call him "Uncle Ben." It is a term of endearment signifying the special feeling which is held for him. Esther and Ben are alike in many respects, together being the object of that special feeling. During his prime Ben was 6'1/2" and Esther, 5'1". Ben has blue eyes and Esther, grey-blue. Both have dark brown hair.

In 1952 Ben and Esther moved to their new one-story home in Walnut Grove, where Morris lives with them. Donald, Ruth and sons, Brian, Bruce and Eric, live on the farm, now 360 acres, operated as B. H. Johnson and Sons. In addition to their field crops, they raise and fatten large numbers of hogs and cattle. They also buy young stock to feed for market.

This is the story of a life which is lasting longer than Ben expected. He often says, "We surely are enjoying it." Once he told us that it poured rain all day on their wedding day. By late afternoon when the ceremony took place the skies began to clear, and that evening was exceptionally beautiful. Ben says that this is symbolic of the beautiful sunset in life. "That is the way it is for us. At first there were the more trying years of hard work, but now the evening of life is good—very good."

## DONALD

DONALD BERNHARD and his wife RUTH MARIE nee BENSON, make their home on the home farm four and a half miles northwest from Walnut Grove.

Ruth's mother, who now lives in Walnut Grove, was the former Anna Maria Bergblom, the beloved summer parochial school teacher during the years when several of Donald's cousins attended these schools, which were a combination Vacation Bible School and Swedish language school. Miss Bergblom did well in teaching Swedish, but she stressed the Bible part of the curriculum, also the music. In the days when there were few well illustrated books, the children considered it a treat to use her illustrated Bible story book, even though only a few of the pictures were colored.

The Bergbloms had come to the Walnut Grove vicinity from Moline, Illinois, in the early days. They took more time for artistic appreciation than many of the rugged pioneers did. Theirs was a "surrey with the fringe on top", while others were plain. Ruth's grandfather, S. J. Bergblom, was what one





Ruth and Donald.



Brian at 1 year.



Brian and Bruce.

might call a pietist, a leader in church affairs, a good speaker, and taught Sunday School for years. He was also a Sunday School teacher and church organist. He and Mrs. Bergblom had the advantage of knowing the English language, the lack of which was the chief handicap of the immigrants from Sweden and elsewhere.

Ruth, who has blue eyes and dark hair, is of Swedish, Irish and Scotch descent. She was born at Walnut Grove and attended school there, graduating from high school in 1942. In 1945 she received her B. A. degree from Gustavus Adolphus College. She was employed as a social worker and then as teacher, after which she worked at the bank in Walnut Grove, becoming assistant cashier. Ruth is now a busy, happy, mother and homemaker. She also enjoys reading, sewing and travel.

Don and Ruth are faithful members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Walnut Grove. At present Don serves on the Board, as Deacon. Don also enjoys his family of little boys, gardening and reading, in addition to his work of livestock farming. He has hazel eyes and reddish brown hair. His humor cropped out when he completed our personal data form by putting the word "some" in the HAIR column.

Don completed high school in Walnut Grove in 1941, after which he worked with his father on the farm, and then served in the U. S. army from August of 44 through June of 46. His rank was corporal.

Don and Ruth have three sons; namely, BRIAN BERNHARD, BRUCE ELIOT and ERIC CHARLES.

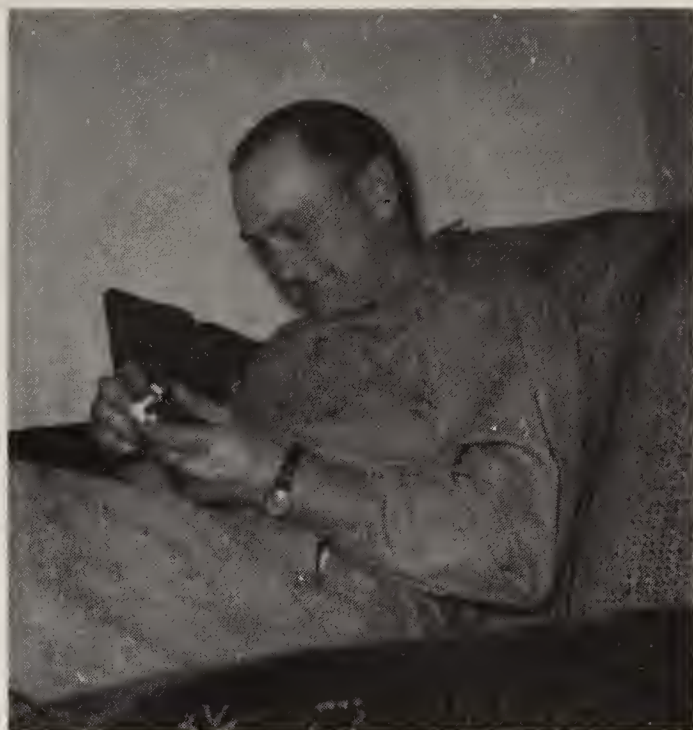
**A son, Bradley Paul, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Donald B. Johnson at the Westbrook hospital Sunday, November 8.**

Donald and Ruth, 1958.

Brian, Eric, Bruce.







## MORRIS

MORRIS EINAR is the junior member of the B. H. Johnson and Sons farming business. He lives with his parents in town driving out to the farm for work each day. Morris does most of the traveling for the business, buying feeder cattle and shipping fat stock to the markets.

Morris reads quite extensively, and enjoys hunting and fishing on occasion. He is very much interested in the work of the church, devoting much of his free time to its activity. He is Sunday School superintendent at present, has been a teacher and held various offices with the Augustana Churchmen. He has been a member of the Board of Administration and represented Trinity Lutheran in Church at Large projects. A district church leader said some time ago that he considers Morris Johnson of Walnut Grove one of the outstanding laymen in that area of the church, stressing his dependability as well as his ability.

Morris served as Sgt. in the U. S. army 1950-52. He completed elementary grades at district 22 and high school in Walnut Grove, graduating in 1941. While in high school he was a good football player, captain of the team. He has blue eyes and brown hair.



*Harry and Sigrid*







Sigrid and Henry Olson were born in Minneapolis, Sigrid January 11, 1898, and Henry October 29, 1900. Their mother was Ida, daughter of Lisa Johannesdotter, Carolina Johnson's sister at Väckelsång. Their paternal uncle Olsson seems to have owned and operated a store and apartment building at Luleå, Sweden.

Both parents passed away while Sigrid and Henry were still children. Their mother, Ida, passed away about 1907 and was buried in the Lutheran cemetery north of Walnut Grove. Sigrid and Henry came to Walnut Grove to make their home with John I. and Carolina Johnson and their son Bernhard. They also spent some time at the homes of Carl, Anna and August.

Henry had a way with "Grandma" Carolina Johnson which no one else had. He could joke with her and tease her so that she liked it, though she was otherwise very serious and not given to levity.

After doing farm work near Walnut Grove for a time, Henry went to Minneapolis where he changed his name to Harry O'Donald. He completed a course at a barber college and became a licensed barber in Minneapolis. Upon completion of a cosmetology course he also became a licensed hairdresser and maintained his own barber and beauty shop for some time.

On March 18, 1925 Harry married Myrtle Anderson of Minneapolis, born at Scandia, Minnesota, December 24, 1903. Their son, Thomas, known as Tommy or Tom, was born February 2, 1944. Harry facetiously writes, "We had been married 19 years when Tom was born. That should be interesting news—





heading, 'Slow Pokes'."

Harry, Myrtle and Tommy moved to California where Harry worked as a welder, a labor organizer and as a real estate broker. They are members of Grace Lutheran Church at Bell, California, where Tom was confirmed in 1958.

Besides home duties and church, Myrtle has kept busy as Room Mother chairman and as Den Mother. Harry has followed through as Tom went from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts, serving as Boy Scout Committeeman and as president, Troup 411.

Tom, believed to be one of the youngest scouts ever to attain this rank, was awarded Eagle rank—highest honor of scouting—in April, 1957. We quote from the Bell-Maywood Industrial Post, Bell, California, dated April 9, 1957.

"O'Donald, who was 13 in February, joined Cub Pack 415-C in February 1952, and was a cub scout for three years. He joined Troop 411 in February 1955; and served as den chief one year, receiving meritorious service award. He also served as patrol leader one year. He has earned 32 merit badges, 11 more than the required amount for an Eagle badge."

Tom is in the 11th grade during the 1959-60 school term.

Harry has been president of Local-62A, AFL; business agent and president, Local 1106, C.I.O.; and treasurer of Bell-Maywood Democratic Club.

Quoting from a letter written by Harry in June, 1959:

"The Pow-Wow to be held August 24 will be a little late for us as that is the time we get home from our vacation. We have been spending the summer on the farm near Scandia.

Myrtle has retained the home place. We stay there about two months and are kept busy fixing up, fishing, etc."

Their summer address is Chisago City, Minnesota. Their home is at Bell, California.

As evidence of Harry's humor we quote from another letter: "I checked the N.Y. Stock exchange and don't see the stock you mentioned listed. How come?" (Kinfolk will remember that the editor appealed for purchasers of stock in the Family Publishing Co., to make the publication of this history possible.)

"We had a good trip for seven weeks and now—back to the Salt Mines and make the build up for next year."

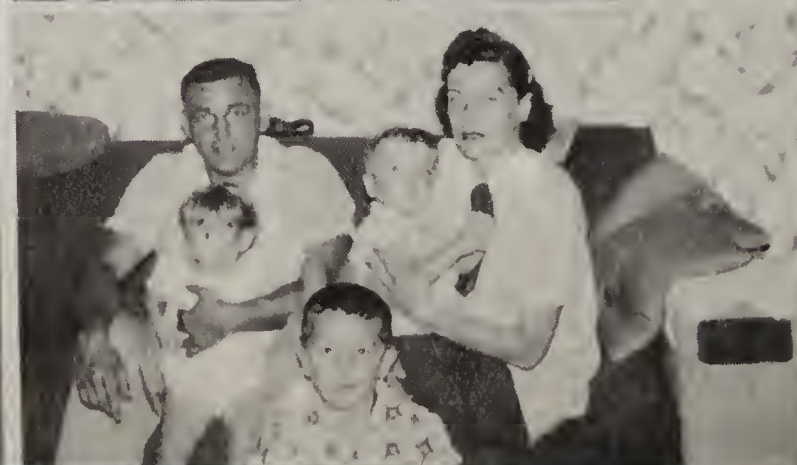
Sigrid married Frank Foster. Children: Virgil, Opal, Vernon, Edna and Betty. Vernon passed away when three years old and Opal passed away in June of 1958 at age 34.

Opal was married and left a family with whom Sigrid is making her home at present, caring for the children. They live at Balwin Park, California.

The picture of Sigrid and Virgil was taken about 1957, as was the one showing, left to right, Betty, Virgil and Virgil's wife. The latter picture was taken before Betty left for Japan, where she stayed two years.

Virgil is a machinist and lives in Burbank, California.

Sigrid at 14. Lower center: Opal and her family.







*Ola and Maria Levin*





Above, left to right, standing: Ann, Selma, Emma. Seated: Marie, Ola, Maria. Upper right: Levin home at Crystal Falls, Michigan.



Ola Ingemansson was born October 11, 1849 in Osterslöv parish, son of *torparen* Ingeman Olsson and his wife Karin Olasdotter dwelling at Osterslov #33. In 1869 he went with his brother Jöns to Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, having made arrangements for work there. Many of those work contracts covered from three to five years. Jöns returned to Sweden in 1873 but we do not know when Ola returned. He may have gone on to other countries after leaving Germany. He emigrated to America in 1876 or 1877.

Upon arrival in America Ola changed his surname from Ingemansson to Levin, retaining the I, for Ingeman or Ingemansson, as a middle initial.

In 1888, at Rock Springs, Wyoming, Ola and Maria Mickelson, born June 6, 1853, were married. They had four daughters, Selma, Emma, Anna and Marie and two sons, Axel and Carl. We let their daughter Selma continue the narrative at this point.

"The state of Wyoming was quite wild then; Mother used to say she feared walking in the streets alone—there was so much violence. Work conditions in Denver being better than at Rock Springs, our parents moved to Denver, where I was born. Father worked in the mines there.

"In June of that year they decided to come to Michigan, having heard that work was plentiful. They planned to buy a farm eventually—Mother loved the land—but were going to make some money first. Eventually they did buy a farm, near Ottawa Lake, Iron River, Michigan, but by that time they had grown old and decided to remain where they were.





"There were six children. Axel died at three weeks and Carl at three years of age. We were well raised. Mother was a devout Christian and certainly skimped so that we girls could have a good education.

"It seems that our father wasn't too satisfied to stay in one place long. He apparently had been a wanderer, but when he had to raise four daughters he could wander no more."

Emma writes, "When Dad talked about life in Sweden he often spoke with deep affection of Nilla." Nilla was closer in age to Ola than to the others in the family.

The Levin family home was on an acreage at the northwest edge of Crystal Falls, Michigan, near the Bristol iron mine. The girls became self-reliant, growing up midst both laughter and tears, learning to love Nature and to use her gifts wisely, while enjoying her beauty. They learned to fish and hunt; gather and preserve wild berries and fruit; saw and split wood for fuel; raise a garden; care for chickens and a cow or two; make maple syrup and sugar; cook and sew; yet find time for civic and cultural interests.

Ola passed away December 22, 1922 and his wife, Maria, passed away June 13, 1924. They are buried in the Crystal Falls cemetery, east of town.

The story of John I. Johnson's one visit to the home of his brother Ola Levin has amused the Levins and the Johnsons through the years.

It has been told that sometime after John I. and Carolina had become established at Walnut Grove, Minnesota, it was agreed that John should visit Ola "up there in the woods." (They loved the prairie and didn't appreciate lakes and wooded areas.)

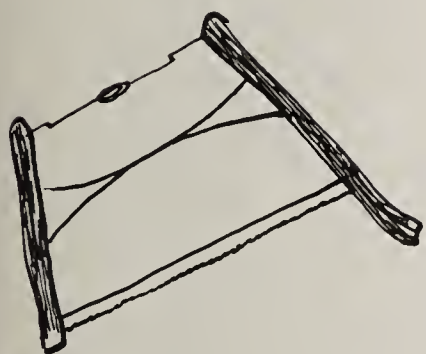
Marie tells us that their parents had entertained Uncle John with seeming success, children and weather cooperating. But, on the day of his departure it began to rain, inside and out. A pan was set in the living room to catch water coming through the ceiling. Ola hustled John into the kitchen, only to find another pan there for the same purpose. Embarrassed beyond description, Ola kept repeating again and again, "*Ja ska tecka taket.*" (I will repair the









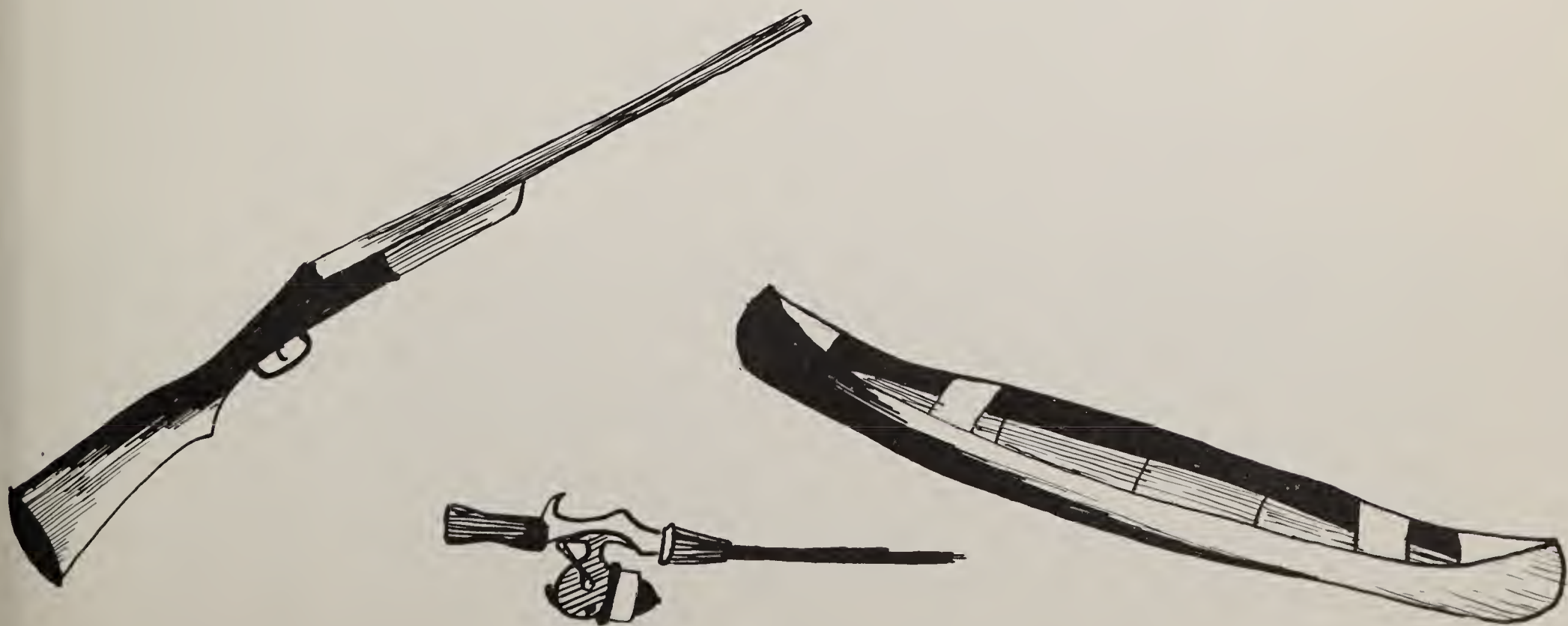


Anna

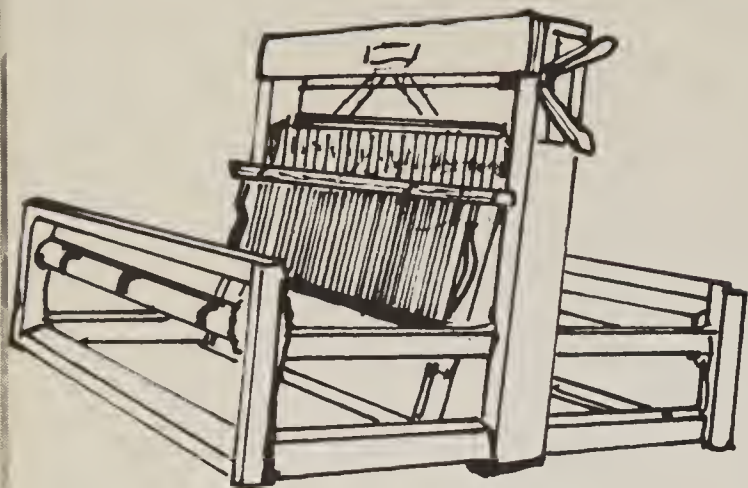
Emma

Marie

Selma







Selma. Selma and Bill. Johnson home, front and back view. Bates mine, where Bill and Ed Palm worked.

## SELMA

Selma Sofia was born April 21, 1889. After high school at Crystal Falls and college at Northern State in Marquette, she taught school until 1914 when she was married to Carl William (Bill) Johnson of Iron River, Michigan.







Above: Bill in Mojave Desert, 1949; Selma and Bill, 1950. Right: Selma, 1958. Below: Richard's 4-H calf project, 1928. Richard, 1937. Helen and Richard, 1959.

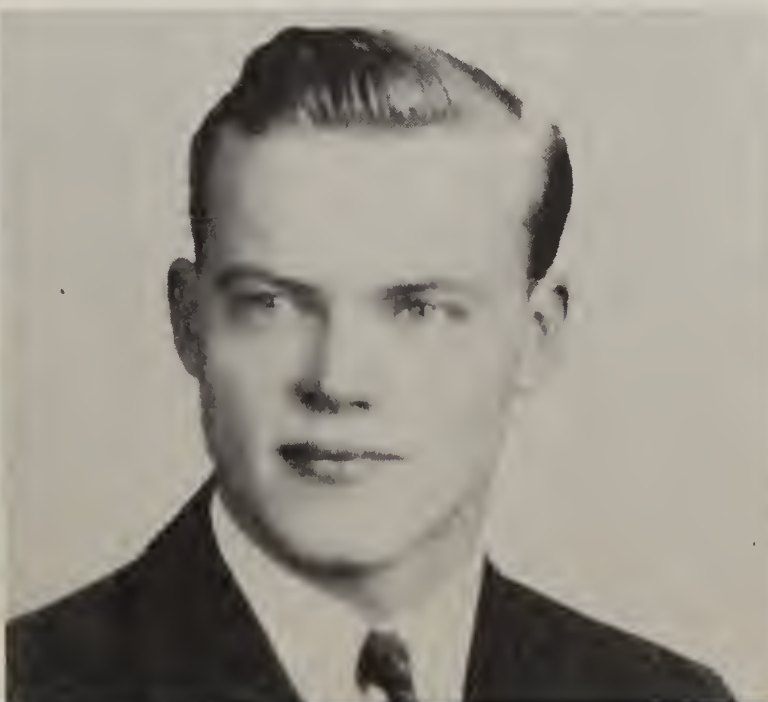
Bill was born at Commonwealth, Wisconsin, September 11, 1882. He and Selma made their home by Ice Lake in Bates township, east of Iron River. Children: Richard Charles and Edith Dorothy.

Bill worked as a miner, farmer, diamond driller and as carpenter. Selma says, "Bill's father was a tyrant who held his boys under his thumb, but the mother was a saint and kept the family together. She died at 66. Not long after that her husband had to be taken away. Perhaps his treatment of her bothered him, causing mental illness. Not one of the sons inherited his manner. All of them were fine to their families. I believe Bill was the most tolerant of all. He was certainly kind to our youngsters.

"Bill liked to travel and we were fortunate to have had many trips together, to almost every state in the union. While the children were small, Bill often planned camping and boating trips for our two and their friends, himself acting as chaperone and cook."

Selma was secretary of the Bates Township Board of Education for seven years and then Bill was secretary from 1941 until his death in 1953. He was always interested in boys and girls. He passed away September 24, 1953, from cancer, and was buried at the Bates Township Cemetery.

Selma was 4-H leader for 24 years, during which one of her honors was a trip to the National 4-H Congress at Chicago. She was Extension Club member for 30 years, served as leader several times and held various offices. She has always enjoyed a garden. Present hobbies are weaving and gardening. During recent years she has been employed by the Tourist Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce in Iron River, a position for which she is well qualified. Showing Selma's interest in people and her feeling of kinship is the closing sentence of a letter. "My greetings and love to all. Let's keep in touch. Lovingly, Selma." That warm feeling is typical of all the sisters.







Barbara and Bette

## RICHARD

Richard was born at Iron River, Michigan, June 27, 1915. Schooling: Bates township through tenth grade; Iron River High School; Michigan State College, graduating in 1937 with degree, magna cum laude, in Forestry.

Richard taught at Manhattan, Kansas, Kansas State College, and at Michigan State College before going into business. He owns and operates a saw mill in St. Johns, Michigan, where the family resides.

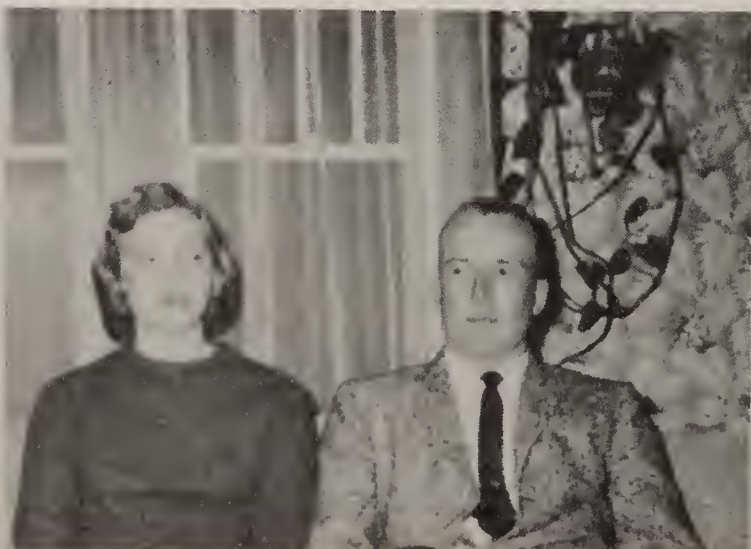
In 1937 Richard married Helen Louise Johnson, born March 10, 1919 at Crystal Falls, a graduate of Iron River High School. They have two daughters, Barbara and Bette.

Barbara, born at St. Johns, Kansas, June 8, 1939, now a junior at Michigan State University, has been active in 4-H, is a member of the M.S.U. Glee Club, and teaches swimming at Lansing pool in addition to her college work. She married James Stiffler December 20, 1958. She is continuing her schooling at M. S. U.

Bette Louise, born at Manhattan, Kansas, August 21, 1942, is a high school senior at St. Johns, Michigan, during the 1959-60 term. She is active in 4-H and is interested in becoming a nurse, planning to attend University of Michigan.

Both Richard and Helen like to travel, are active in school affairs, bowl, fish and swim. Helen is active in Ladies Aid and P.T.A., is a 4-H Club Leader and likes to sew.

Barbara, 1957. Barbara and James, 1959.  
Bette, 1958. Bette, 1959.







Edith, 4-H projects, 1930. Dean, John and Edith, 1958. Edith, 1937.

## EDITH

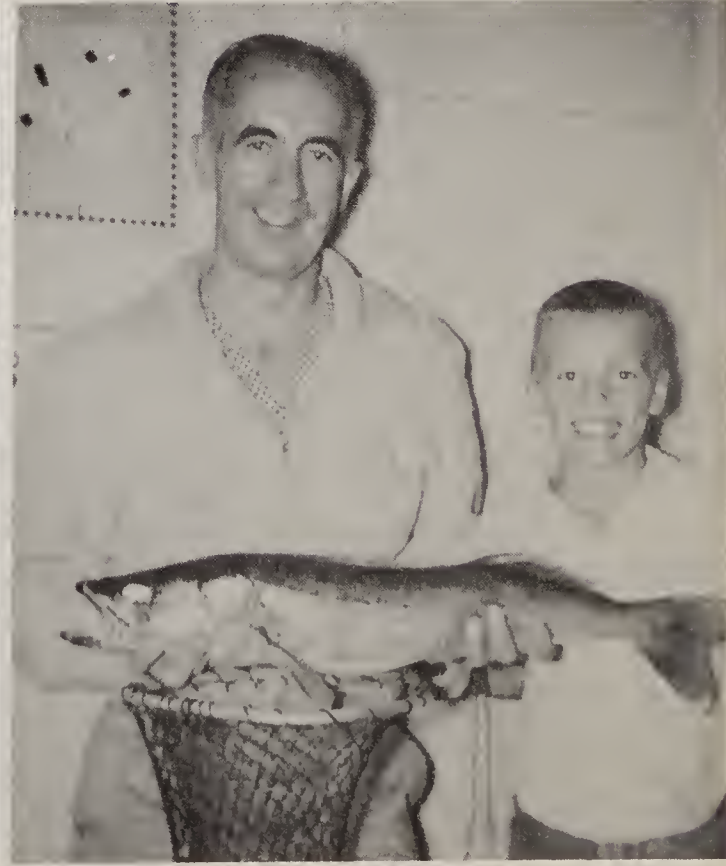
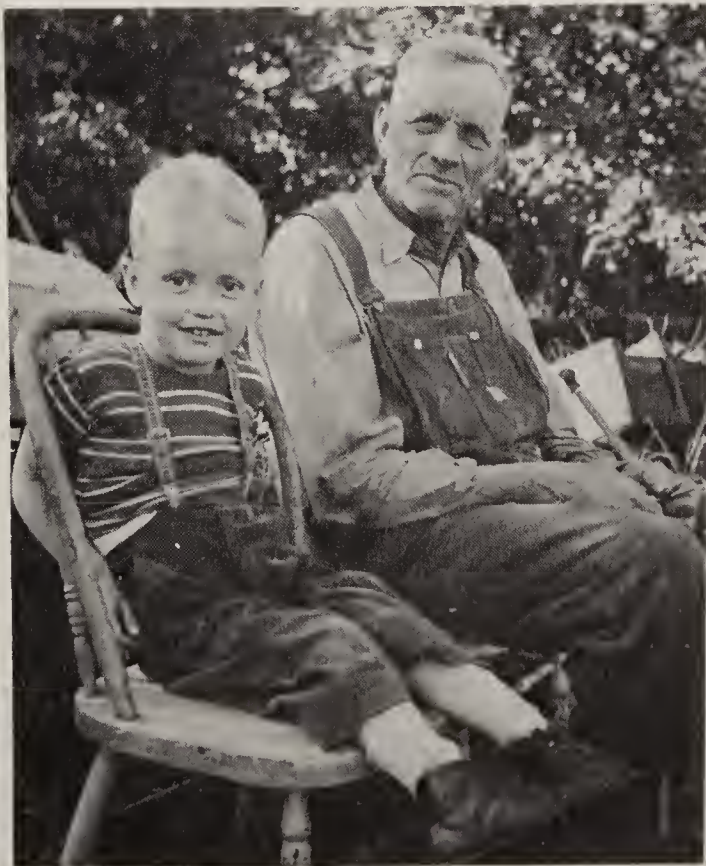
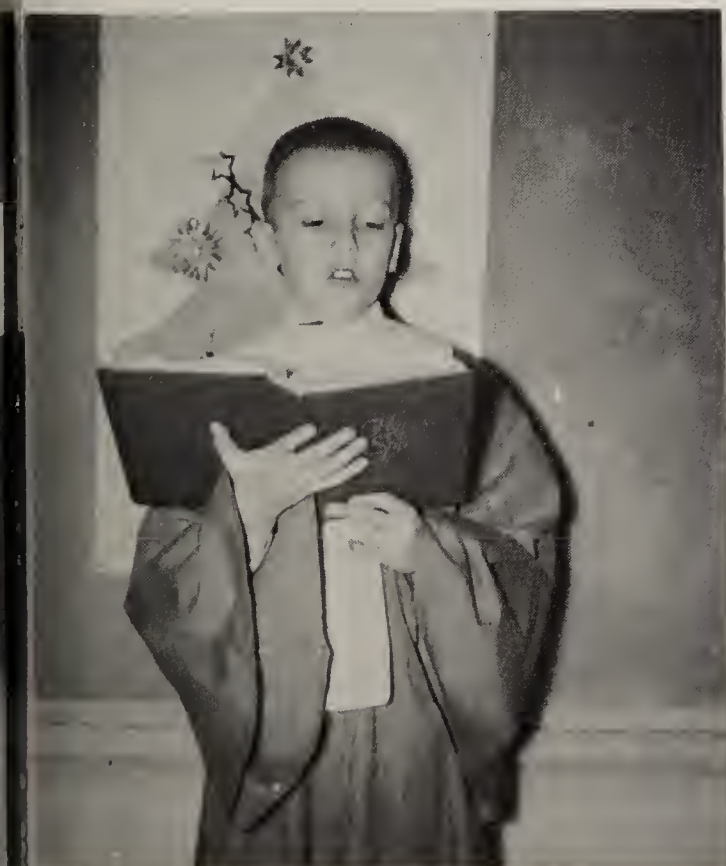
Edith Dorothy was born in Bates Township, Iron River, October 11, 1916. She attended Bates Township Schools, grades one through ten; Iron River High School, grades eleven and twelve; and Michigan State College, graduating in 1937 with a degree, magna cum laude, in Home Economics.

Edith taught Home Economics in Alpha one year and in Iron River one year after which she was Goegebic County Home Demonstration Agent and Assistant State Club Leader until 1946 when she became a homemaker, marrying Dean Avise.

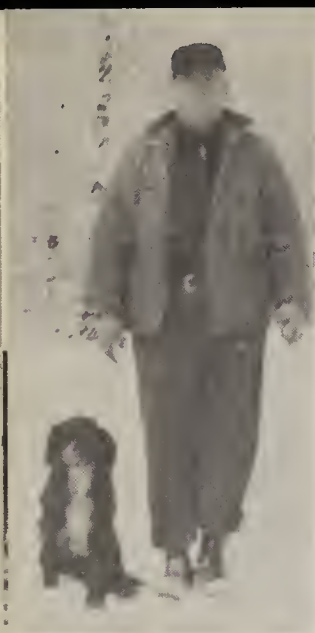
Reginald Dean Avise, born at Mason City, Iowa, April 6, 1909, a graduate of Northwestern University at Evanston, Illinois, is a postal inspector. Edith and Dean make their home in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They have a son, John Charles, born September 19, 1948, now a sixth grader. All are active members of Fountain St. Baptist Church, Grand Rapids.

Edith won many honors in her 4-H work and in band, where she played clarinet. She is a member of Guild, M. S. U. Alumnae Group and P. T. A., enjoys sewing and traveling and takes an active interest in John's hobbies.

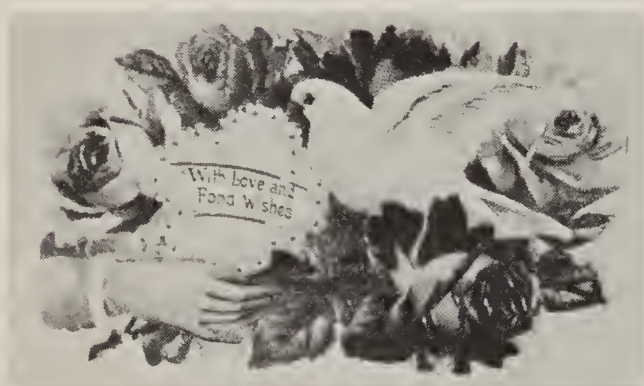
Dean is treasurer of Grand Rapids Art Museum association, likes fishing, sailing, traveling and John's hobbies. John is president of his school class, collects stamps and coins; likes bird watching, fishing and swimming.







Ed, 1935. The Palm home. Emma and Ed, 1927.



## EMMA

Emma C. was born August 26, 1891 at Crystal Falls, Michigan. She worked as clerk and bookkeeper after her graduation from Crystal Falls High School until she married Edward Palm February 26, 1922. Ed was born at Ludington, Michigan, and was first a barber and then a miner. They made their home at Crystal Falls for a short time, at the old Levin home, until 1929 when they moved to the new home which they had built in Bates Township, across the road from Ann and Mauritz's home.

Both Edward and Emma liked hunting, fishing, camping and gardening. Emma enjoys cooking and sewing. Edward passed away November 5, 1947, from heart trouble, and was buried at the Crystal Falls Cemetery.

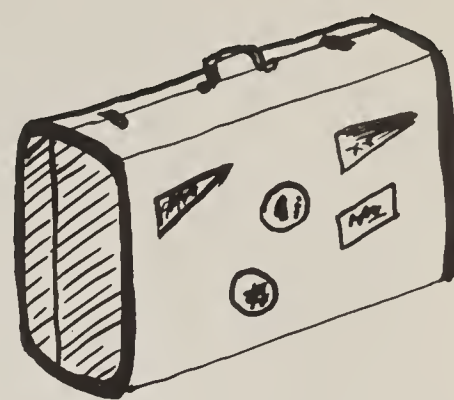
Following Ed's death Emma was a cook at the Bates school lunch room for seven years. She is a member of First Lutheran Church in Iron River.



Emma, Eddie, Ann and Mauritz at a sugar bush. Marie, Will and Emma in Florida 1956.







Ann and Mauritz, 1936. The Kellstrom home. Ann and Mauritz. 1958.



## ANNA

Anna C., usually known as Ann, was born at Crystal Falls, October 30, 1893. After completion of high school at Crystal Falls she worked as bookkeeper and clerk until she became a homemaker, marrying Mauritz Kellstrom of Iron River August 3, 1916.

Mauritz, born May 4, 1895 at Commonwealth, Wisconsin, a high school graduate, has been bus driver and mechanic for Bates Township Schools for 32 years and is still working. He is a member of the Masonic lodge in Iron River.

Both Ann and Mauritz are very much interested in their lakeside camp, hunting, fishing and gardening. While their children were in school they also attended all band performances and basketball games. They live in the home built for themselves when first married, located on an acreage west and north from the Bates school. Children: Howard and Sherman.







## HOWARD

Howard, born in Bates township, October 14, 1917, completed high school at Iron River in 1935 and went to National Schools in Los Angeles for automobile and Diesel mechanics. He served in the U. S. Armed Forces from March, 1942 until November 1945, fighting from Brest to Bastogne.

On November 22, 1942 Howard married Verle Fredrickson, a high school graduate born at Skandia, Michigan, October 29, 1924. Their children: Lynn, born August 31, 1946 and Paul, born April 16, 1955, both at Marquette, Michigan.

Howard is a member of the Lions Club. Both Howard and Verle are members of the Methodist Church at Skandia, interested in school, church and community affairs. Hobbies: bowling, fishing and hunting.

## SHERMAN

Sherman was born in Bates August 5, 1919, and graduated from Iron River High School in 1937. While working in Washington, D. C. in 1941 he was drafted into the U. S. Army and sent to Camp Lee, Virginia, and then to Fort Bliss, Texas. After Pearl Harbor he was sent up to Washington state. He was in an anti-aircraft battalion. In July, 1942, he was sent to North Carolina for

Sherman and Betty, 1941 and 1942. Their children, 1953.







Charles



Christine and Craig

O.T.S., graduating in October as second lieutenant. He was sent to the Aleutians where he served two years. Upon his return to the States, he was an instructor in Camps in Texas and in Florida.

After the war he attended the University of Minnesota School of Pharmacy, graduating in 1950. He worked as a pharmacist in St. Louis for a year and was recalled as a reserve officer in 1951, and sent to Korea where he served a year.

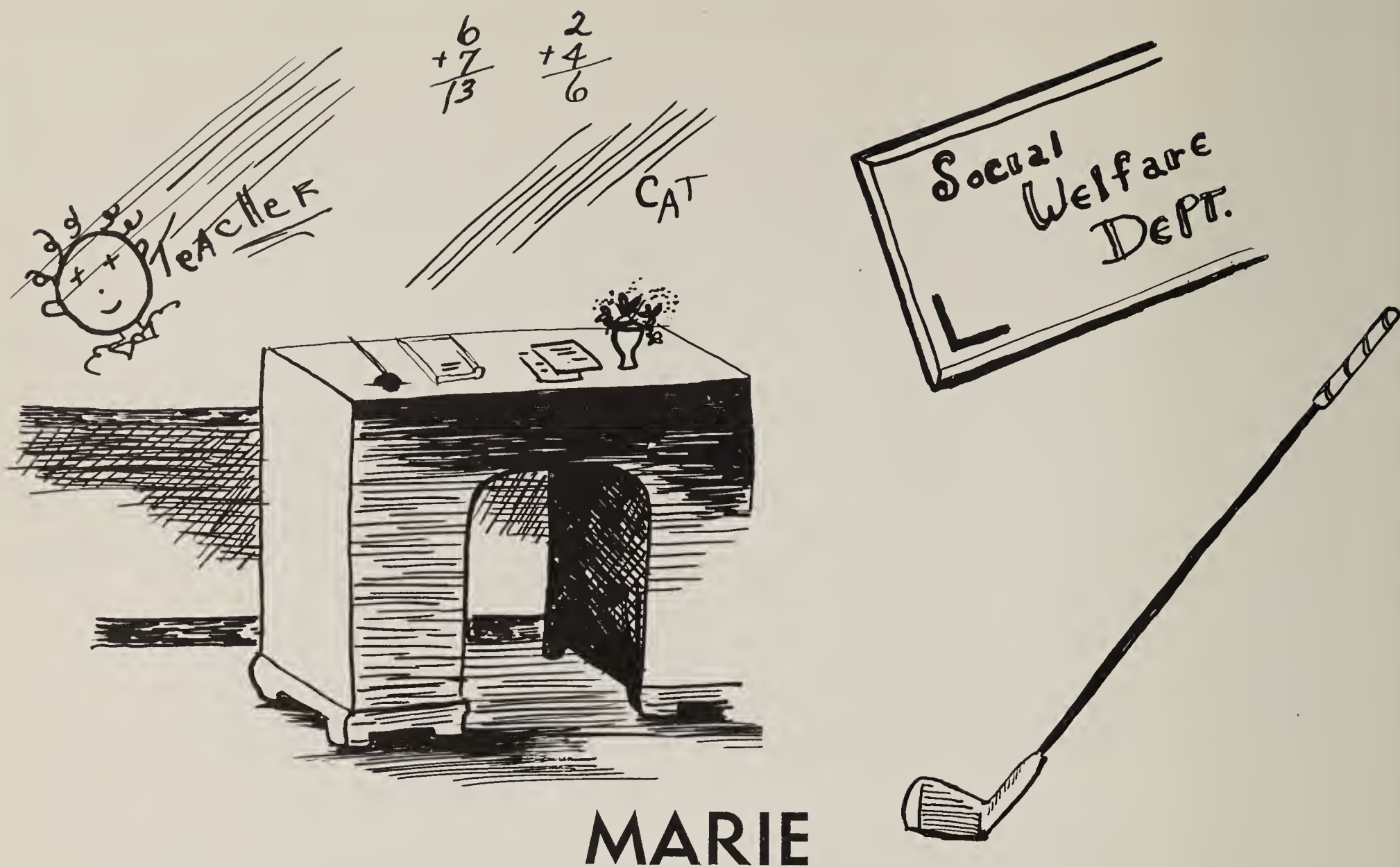
Sherman now owns and operates the City Drug Store in Iron Mountain, Michigan.

On February 21, 1941 he married Betty Weimers, a stenographer born in Minnesota May 15, 1916, a graduate of high school and college at Ashland, Wisconsin. She helps in the drug store, besides homemaking. Children: Charles, Craig and Christine. Charles was born at Minot, N. Dakota, December 8, 1945. The twins, Craig and Christine, were born at Iron Mountain July 10, 1952.

Sherman and Betty are members of First Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain and are interested in church and school affairs. Sherman is a member of Kiwanis and Iron Mountain Country Club. They enjoy boating, camping and fishing, although present work doesn't leave much time for these activities.







Marie, youngest of Ola and Maria Levin's children, was born May 19, 1898 at Crystal Falls, Michigan. She was confirmed at the Swedish Methodist church July 16, 1910, graduated from Crystal Falls High School in June 1916 and from Northern State Teachers' College in August 1923. She studied at the University of Chicago a summer term.

After thirteen years of teaching in the Crystal Falls school system Marie did social work for the State of Michigan twenty-one years. At present she is making surveys for the U. S. Department of Health. Gardening, outdoor activity and travel are among Marie's many interests. Her versatility is noticeable in that she is well poised at social functions or while roughing it on camping trips.

On December 26 in 1928 Marie married William Eldred, an automobile mechanic, graduate of Crystal Falls High School, born June 30, 1890. Both are now members of First Church of Christ Scientist at Marinette, Wisconsin. Will is a member of the Menominee American Legion and Marie a member of the Woman's Club in Menominee. They own their home in a lovely area on the shores of Lake Michigan, at the edge of Menominee.

Below, left: Will, Mauritz, Norma, Ann and Marie in Arizona, 1957. Right: Eldred home.





## Related Families





## NILS

Nils, the oldest child of Ingeman Olsson and his wife Karin, was born in 1837. He had a Danish wife and an adopted daughter. He went to America about 1884, hoping to send for his family soon thereafter. He was killed by a railroad section foreman in Montana shortly after he had started work there. His widow and daughter moved from Sweden to Denmark when they received word (through a fellow worker) of Nils' death, but visited at Osterslöv now and then. She is remembered as a well dressed lady of refinement.

## ELNA

Elna, born 1843, married Jöns Carlsson Oster. Children: Nils, Mathilda (Tilda), Ola, Anders and Carl Gustav. Ola and Anders were twins. It seems that the youngest used the name Gustav at first but was known as Carl in later years. Information about this family is incomplete and may not be entirely accurate.

Tilda and Gustav corresponded with their cousins, Levins and Johnsons, in America. We have a picture of Tilda when she was young and also one of her four eldest daughters. Gustav sent pictures of himself in army uniform.

If desired, persons visiting Sweden could trace present members of this family through the church office at Osterslöv. At least two of the Osters emigrated to America, but we have lost contacts. Edwin Carlson sent a picture of his son several years ago, from Chicago.

Jöns, Elna's husband, was a night watchman at Karsholm's *herregård* or estate. He made the rounds eight hours of the night, ringing a bell each hour to indicate that all was well. Owners of this *gård* lived in Denmark but two women lived in a *villa* (cottage) on the grounds to keep everything in constant readiness if and when the *herrska*p should come from Denmark to see their property or to spend some time there. Many people in that area were employed on this estate.

Jöns did other work another eight hours, much of the time shoveling grain from side to side of bins to keep it from moulding. He and his family lived in one of the *torpare* houses in a row near one edge of the estate. Most of the people living in those houses were crofters or cotters, who worked a certain number of days each week at Karsholm's *gård* in exchange for the use of house and small acreage for themselves.

## NILLA

Nilla, born June 8, 1865 at Osterslöv, married Johan Bengtsson, born February 6, 1863 in Gammalstorp, Bleking. Children: Berndt, Alma, Hulda, Betty, Karin, Anton, Wilhelm, Anna and Marta. Johan died at their Perstorp home in July, 1945. Nilla died at the home of her daughter Karin and son-in-law Nils Landen at Visseltofta near Osby, July 25, 1948, at age 83. Both are buried in the Perstorp church cemetery.

Their children who came to America are: Anton; Anna, Mrs. Fred West; and Marta, Mrs. Harry Erickson.

Tilda. Gustav. Bengtson family. Margit Lundberg with father and children, 1959.







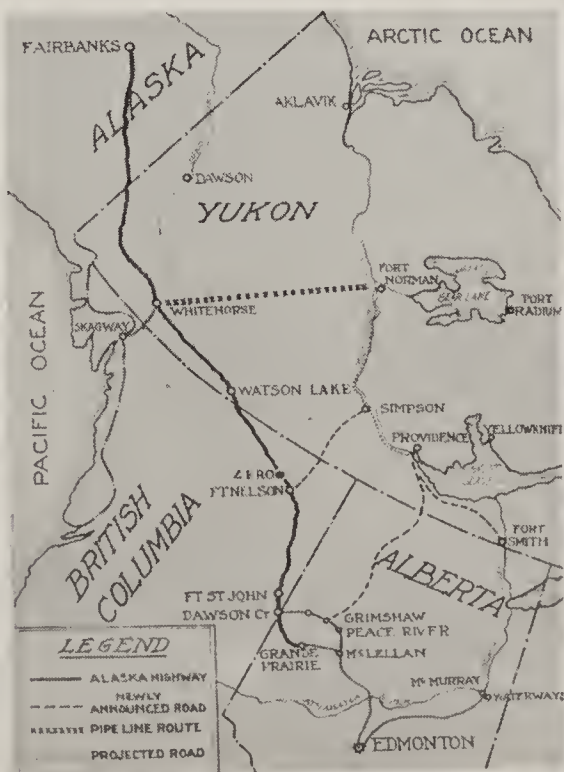
Rita, Barbara and Donald. Donald, Rita and Naomi. Karin and Anton in Sweden.

Fred and Anna West's farm is located in sections 36 and 25 of Gales township, north of Walnut Grove, Minnesota. They have two children and three grandchildren. Their daughter, Rita Mae, born August 17, 1930, married Harold Craft. They lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado, while Harold was in the army and then bought a home at 555 Rosemont and stayed there. Children: Robert Bruce, David Brian and Amy Jo.

Donald West was born November 25, 1932. After serving in the army he returned to farming. He married Mildred Tietz of Jeffers, Minnesota, in 1959. They are now operating the home farm while Fred and Anna have built a new home for themselves in Walnut Grove.

Harry and Marta Erickson get their mail from Minneota but live between there and Cottonwood, Minnesota. Their nephew, Gerald Erickson, lived with them from the time they moved to their own farm in 1947 until, with their help, he went to Dunwoody Institute, Minneapolis, where he studied radio and electronics. He is at present with the U. S. Forestry department, working out of Grand Rapids, Minnesota, keeping short wave radios in condition.

There are five Bengtsson brothers and sisters left in Sweden. They, their children and grandchildren live at various places in Skåne and beyond. The last Bengtsson home was at Perstorp.





## CAROLINA'S RELATIVES

Carolina Mathilda Johannesdotter, being much younger than all her brothers and sisters, did not learn to know them well. She did say that her oldest sister lived on the home place, in accord with laws and customs of the time. See report from Vadstena archives in the "Ancestry" division of this book.

Upon our first inquiry to "Pastorsämbetet, Väckelsång, Sweden" we were referred to Landsarkivet i Vadstena, with promise of further information after we had secured earlier facts from the archives. Results of research done at the archives are shown in the "Ancestry" division.

After the preceding had been printed, information summarized below was received from Kyrkoherde Arnold Olofsson, Väckelsång:

Johannes Jonasson and wife Martha Abielsdotter's children, all born at Väckelsång, Småland:

- I. Anna Gustava (known as Staw'va) 16/2 1826 - 28/4 1897, married Daniel Abrahamson 11/4 1819 - 30/4 1905. Seven children. Took over her parents' farm but lost it. From Kyrkoherde Olofsson's answer to our questions, "The estate was rather small c:a 25 hectar total. The family evidently became insolvent and had to give it up, moving 20/11 1869 to a back cottage, Hagaborg, on the same place. After the man's death this cottage was torn down." Our dictionary defines a hectare or hecto as the equivalent of 100 acres, a puzzling discrepancy with above description.
- II. Jonas Daniel 20/11 1830.
- III. Lisa Helena 12/1 1838 - 6/9 1873, married 8/11 1868 to a farm-laborer Sven Johan Svensson 20/11 1832. Lived at a "torpare" home, Brostugan at Lidhem. Children: a) Ida Christina 19/11 1868 in Väckelsång, moved 13/10 1885 to Österslöv and later to America. She became Sigrid and Harry's mother. b) Anna Charlotta 3/2 1872 - 13/5 1873. c) Carl Johan 15/11 1872 - 12/6 1873.
- IV. Johan August 3/9 1840. Moved to Stockholm 16/1 1879/
- V. Frans David 25/6 1843. Soldier with Kronobergs regiment 1865. Moved to Göteryd 8/2 1866.
- VI. Carolina Matilda 22/11 1846 - April 6, 1935. Married Jöns Ingemansson (John I. Johnson).

\* \* \*

Carl and Ben Johnson recall hearing that an uncle of their, perhaps Jonas Daniel, had written from Australia that he was coming home with so much gold that "his family need not work again." In company with two others from the same part of Sweden, he stopped at a hotel in Hamburg, Germany. The others returned to Sweden saying that their partner had gone out that evening but never returned to the hotel. Folks in the area had suspicions but no evidence, and the mystery was never solved. The two partners did bring much gold and became known as "guldgubbarna" (the gold men).

Kyrkoherde Olofsson tells that older people say one in this relationship (reportedly Carolina's niece) married a Hindenburg, brother of Germany's Chancellor von Hindenburg, at Karlskrona, Sweden. Truth or fallacy has not yet been established.





Above, center: Third generation in America cousins, August 1959. Right: Second generation in America cousins, August, 1959.

## POW-WOW

Gathered at Walnut Grove, Minnesota, August 24, 1959 were American descendants of Ingeman Olsson and his wife Karin Olsdotter. Sigrid and Harry, who grew up in the John I. Johnson home, are considered a part of this group although distance made it impossible for them to attend this first "Pow-Wow."

A pot luck picnic dinner was enjoyed at the Walnut Grove park, during which there was time for getting acquainted or for renewing acquaintances, to strengthen bonds of kinship. We share two "candid shots," regretting that good pictures of larger groups are not available.

First cousins representing the second generation in America, present at this occasion, were: Carl and Ben Johnson, Ann Kellstrom and Marie Eldred. Ellen, widow of August Johnson, was also present, as were Mauritz Kellstrom, Will Eldred and Esther Johnson.

First cousins in the third American generation were: Donald Johnson, Edwin Nordstrom, Winfield Haycock, Esther Bostrom, Elmer Johnson, Alvina Kaufenberg, Bob Johnson, Rosella Johnson (now Truedson), Esther Bengtson, Hilma Pearson and Alvar Walfrid. Husbands or wives of all these were present as were several members of their families and representatives of families accounted for in "Related Families" section of this book.

Rosella Johnson Truedson was elected secretary-treasurer of the group and Hilma Pearson was elected president. These two were requested to call another reunion in 1964. Monday, August 15, 1964 was suggested as a tentative date, so that all can start early to make plans for this occasion.

News events, such as births, marriages, deaths, special accomplishments and honors should be reported to the secretary. All persons are urged to send such news items as they occur or to make a yearly report on the day following income tax filing, to make sure it is not neglected. From these reports Rosella will organize information to be presented at the 1964 reunion, when family history books can be brought up to date.

If Rosella's present Tracy address should change, mail will reach her in care of her mother, Mrs. August M. Johnson, Walnut Grove. Letters addressed simply, "Mrs. Warner Truedson, Walnut Grove, Minnesota" should reach her.





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